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Iranian official to visit Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — One of Iran's deputy foreign ministers is to visit Iraq in the next two weeks following a decision made in a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries, Tehran Radio reported Saturday. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Said Al Sahaf met Friday in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, the radio said. The official IRNA news agency identified the deputy foreign minister as Mohammad Javad Zarif. He will discuss bilateral ties and "pending issues" with Iraqi officials. Iran and Iraq, which fought a bloody war for eight years, have repeatedly accused each other of violating ceasefire agreements signed between the two countries in August 1988.

Iran allows detained German to go home

BONN (R) — Iran has allowed a German businessman, held in the country since 1991, to return home, Bonn government spokesman Norbert Schaefer said. Mr. Schaefer said 59-year-old Paul Dietrich Fersch, who was temporarily arrested in Tehran two years ago and then refused permission to leave the country, had arrived back in Germany. Mr. Fersch's release came after intense efforts by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Dead fish found off Kuwaiti coast

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Thousands of dead fish have been found floating off the coast of Al Shuaiba in southern Kuwait but preliminary tests show no sign of chemical or toxic contamination, the environment council said Saturday. Council Secretary Mahmoud Yusuf Abdul Rahim said that the fish — all of them of the same size and species — were removed from the Gulf near the Shuaiba port on Friday. "None of them showed signs of contamination by chemical or toxic products," he said, adding that no dead fish were found in any other region of Kuwait. The United Arab Emirates, some 800 kilometres southwest of Kuwait, has been plagued by a mystery ailment that killed thousands of fish in its waters last month. Iran, which has a long Gulf coastline, has also reported dead fish in its waters.

Kuwaitis oppose formal ties with Israel

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Most Kuwaitis oppose the emirate's establishing diplomatic ties with Israel following the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel peace accord, according to a poll published here Saturday. The survey of 240 respondents by the daily Al Siyassa said 75 per cent of Kuwaitis were against establishing relations with the Jewish state and more than 74 per cent opposed selling it Kuwaiti oil. Also, 54 per cent of those questioned said they would not visit Israel and the occupied territories, while 33 per cent said they would consider it. More than 64 per cent of the polled Kuwaitis said they opposed the Israel-PLO agreement and 74 per cent of them disagreed with extending financial aid to help implement the self-rule accord.

Quake jolts Astara in northwest Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the Astara region in northwestern Iran Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The tremor occurred at 0922 GMT and its epicentre was some 400 kilometres northwest of Tehran, IRNA said.

King voices satisfaction with election on schedule

Polls will reaffirm Jordan's principles

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday expressed deep satisfaction that the parliamentary elections would be held on schedule and voiced confidence that the Nov. 8 polls would be fair and democratic. Presiding over a six-hour marathon session of the Cabinet, King Hussein stressed that Jordan "will continue to enhance democracy based on freedom, human rights and absolute confidence in the Jordanian people's awareness and determination to protect and safeguard national unity."

"I am absolutely confident that the Nov. 8 elections will be free and democratic," King Hussein said. "The Jordanian citizens' awareness and their shouldering of responsibilities with honesty, courage and wisdom will enable us to confront any challenges," the King said.

The King pledged "continued Jordanian backing for the Palestinian brothers and

their choice of methods to regain their legitimate rights in their national homeland." King Hussein reiterated Jordan's determination to protect Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem and reaffirmed the Kingdom's continued support for the Palestinians in their drive to regain their legitimate rights. "We will not cede our rights in Arab Jerusalem or our Islamic heritage in the city under any circumstances," the King said. "The return of Jerusalem is an Islamic responsibility which requires joint Islamic-Christian efforts," King Hussein said. He said that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will visit the Vatican following his current visit to Washington and meet His Holiness Pope John Paul II to discuss the question of Jerusalem.

The King also reviewed the activities of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation and its emergency aid to

brotherly and friendly nations suffering from the consequences of conflicts and natural disasters. King Hussein directed the government to extend help to Lebanon to help that country to reconstruct villages destroyed in an Israeli air blitz in late July. "All possible aid should be extended to Lebanon in this regard and also all possible relief aid should go from Jordan to the victims of the earthquake that hit Western India," King Hussein said. King Hussein also instructed the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to continue assistance to Bosnian families hosted by Jordan. The King also reviewed issues related to Jordanian workers, guest workers in the Kingdom and the compensation demanded by Jordanian expatriates returning from Kuwait following the Gulf crisis. He also discussed with



Cabinet ministers matters related to tourism, the environment, electricity, oil, energy, education, and public works. The King passed directives to the ministers on all these matters and said efforts should be made towards providing the best possible service to the public. At the outset of the Cabinet meeting, the King listened to a briefing by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Cabinet members about their respective department's activities and the measures taken towards the implementation of Royal directives as contained in the letter of designation to the government.

Jordan and Palestinians plan close economic cooperation, integration

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed on a basic framework for cooperation which would guide Palestinian negotiations with Israel in the implementation of the economic aspects of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and beyond, informed sources said Saturday.

Broad details of the Jordan-PLO agreement, which were made available to the Jordan Times, indicate that the two banks of the River Jordan will be partners in a new arrangement that envisages economic integration.

The accord falls in line with public statements made by PLO officials and Palestinian economic planners that the Palestinian entity envisaged

under the Israel-PLO agreement would seek to disengage itself from the confines of the economy of the Jewish state and link up with the Arab economies of the region, particularly Jordan.

Ahmad Qurai (Aho Ala), head of the economic department of the PLO who led the Palestinian side in the secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo, would not confirm or deny that the PLO and Jordan had concluded an economic cooperation agreement.

But he outlined in an interview with the Jordan Times certain basic points of the Palestinian approach to economic development and cooperation with Jordan.

He said the Palestinians would not set up their own central bank during the interim period, but preparations would start for opening a "central

Palestinian institution" during that period. In the meantime, he said, Palestinians would use the Jordanian dinar as the official currency, and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would monitor and regulate the monetary policies and money movement. The CBJ would issue permits to open branches of Jordanian banks inside the occupied territories, as well as Palestinian and Arab banks. It would also guarantee the free movement of money and regulate foreign currency reserves, Mr. Qurai said.

"However, Palestinians would be represented in the CBJ's board of directors in order to make policies related to the Palestinian territories," Mr. Qurai said. Other sources said the Palestinians and Jordanians have agreed to form a permanent joint committee in the CBJ to deal with monetary

issues concerning the occupied territories. Mr. Qurai said there will be free trade between Jordan and Palestine, whereby Jordan can export goods to the Palestinians worth \$150 million during the first two years, and vice versa. This ceiling would double in the third year.

Jordanian officials said earlier they would strive for free trade with the occupied territories during the interim period, and would refuse Israeli imposition of tariffs on Jordanian goods entering the Palestinian market.

"This would have to be negotiated with the Israelis, bearing in mind that neither the Palestinians nor Jordan accept restrictions on their trade between the Jordanian and Palestinian markets," one PLO official said.

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Lifting Arab boycott is 'suicide' — Crown Prince

WASHINGTON (R) — Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday that lifting the Arab boycott of Israel would be "economic suicide" despite U.S. calls for such a move. One day after an unprecedented White House meeting between Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Crown Prince also said a new vision of Middle East peace should include Israel.

And the peace process, he said, would harness economic progress rather than depending on diplomatic breakthroughs. "I do not see effectively that ... prosperity ... is going to sit around and wait indefinitely while the politicians or the diplomats decide when is a convenient time in constituent terms to sign a peace treaty," he said the Arab boycott of

Israel in place since 1948, was answered by an Israeli boycott of Arab states, and that Jordan and other Arab states must get something in return if they decide to end their boycott. "To those who have said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide," Prince Hassan said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher and others in the Clinton administration have called for an end to the Arab boycott following the signing of peace accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on Sept. 13 and a Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda on Sept. 14.

Asked whether Iran should be included in the Middle East peace process, Prince Hassan replied, "Participation effectively in the new regional order

should not be exclusive of anyone."

If the United States wants to help Iran become a part of this process, it should focus more on peacemaking, the Crown Prince said. "You will get aggressive and antagonistic positions taken by Iran if the signals are 'Iran is the next pop up target'," he said, adding that he hoped Iran would be included in a "wider regional understanding."

Referring obliquely to a global conference held on Friday that raised \$2 billion to support the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO peace accord, Prince Hassan said the international community should focus more on peacemaking.

"Let's face it: Over \$100 billion (has been) spent on

(Continued on page 10)

Wheels seen in motion towards addressing Jordan's concerns

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE CURRENT visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Washington has set the wheels in motion towards addressing some of Jordan's major economic concerns, particularly its foreign debt, officials and diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The first tangible sign of Washington taking a serious look at Jordan's economic situation came when President Bill Clinton affirmed that the Kingdom's foreign debt was heavy and should be reduced. Mr. Clinton, addressing reporters after a meeting at the White House with Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a conference of international donors to support Middle East peace, said:

"The purpose of the dooer's conference today was to give life and meaning and reality to the agreement we saw between Israel and the PLO. There will have to be other investments, other commitments that will help to deal with the problems of Jordan, including the enormous problem Jordan has of accumulated debt."

There needs to be some debt relief for Jordan, and the United States will support that. And there are a whole lot of other things that we need to be doing on that."

Mr. Clinton's comments, which came in reply to a question, were the first formal U.S. response in two months of Jordanian efforts to raise the issue of the Kingdom's foreign debt with Washington, informed sources said.

Jordan's present foreign debt is estimated at \$6.5 bil-

lion. Of it, \$1 billion is owed to the U.S. — \$380 million in military debts and \$620 million in non-military obligations. U.S. laws allow U.S. write off military debts, and Jordan now hopes that the president's comments will be taken up with the State Department and followed up with Congress for a write-off of the \$380 million the way Washington did with Egypt and Poland, the sources said.

"It may be too early to predict how Congress would look at a debt write-off for Jordan, but we are hopeful," said one senior source, who did not want his name to be used.

Dr. Marwan Muasher, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington and spokesman for the Kingdom's peace negotiators with Israel, said:

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Settlers kill woman; troops rocket Gaza Strip homes

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Jewish settlers shot dead a Palestinian woman and wounded another while they were picking figs in the West Bank Saturday, Israeli security sources said.

The sources said they had received the report from police but military officials said it was unclear who the attackers were.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli troops hunting Palestinian activists rocketed at least 13 Palestinian homes, Palestinian sources said. They said troops shot and wounded five Palestinians in scattered clashes in the strip.

The army confirmed it made an extensive hunt for fugitives on Saturday in the Gaza Strip and said seven suspected members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) had been arrested.

It was the first time since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a peace deal on Sept. 13 in Washington that troops had rocketed Palestinian homes. "Is this the peace (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin wants? Is this the beginning of peace? Where is (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat who shook hands with Rabin?" said Naima Zard, whose Gaza City home was destroyed in Saturday's operation.

The security sources said the two West Bank Palestinian women were picking figs in a field near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, north of Ramallah, when attacked. They said Rifaf Mahmoud Jasser, who was lightly injured, told police three armed settlers approached and told her and her companion, 70-year-old Ra'bah Abdul Al Karima Jab-

Two Hamas members killed

TWO members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) were killed during a massive Israeli army search operation in the Gaza Strip Saturday, Israeli military sources said.

They said the two men were fighters in Ezzeddin Al Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, and one of them had been sought by the army for more than a year.

They were hiding in a cellar which Israeli soldiers blew up with high explosives during the eleven-hour operation, the sources said.

One of the dead, Hamid Salem Haza, 24, was wanted on suspicion of killing Palestinian collaborators and carrying out attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Sixteen Palestinians suspected of being Hamas militants were arrested during the operation, which netted a number of weapons, including five rifles, rocket launchers, AK-47 sub-machine guns, explosive devices, handguns and ammunition, Israeli sources said.

Palestinians leader Yasser Arafat sent a message of protest to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over the massive military sweep of the Gaza Strip.

Ziyad Abu Ziyad, advisor to the Palestinian delegation in peace talks with Israel, told AFP he had passed on the protest message from Mr. Arafat to Mr. Rabin.

He would not reveal its contents.

He accused the PLO of "being responsible for disturbances in the territories because it has not yet designated the members of a working commission to negotiate the declaration of principles with Israel."

But Palestinian negotiator Sari Nusseibeh charged that Mr. Rabin was "crushing the hopes of Palestinians by destroying homes and carrying out military operations in Gaza."

"If he wants to respect the accord signed with the PLO he must order the army to change its attitude. It is behaving as if nothing had happened," Dr. Nusseibeh told AFP.

The Israeli military sources said the operation "came as part of our fight against wanted Palestinians, was aimed solely at Hamas, and took place in various areas of the Gaza

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History made with promise

THE CREATION of a Jordanian-American-Israeli working group to advance regional economic development has come as a result of yet another major breakthrough in the peace process that found expression in a tripartite White House meeting comprising President Bill Clinton, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The meeting is indeed a landmark in the history of this region, but it has to be seen in its proper perspective. A natural extension of the Arab-Israeli peace process which started with the Madrid peace conference and resulted so far in the autonomy agreement between Israel and the PLO.

What is truly significant about the meeting is that it has produced a wider recognition of the need to construct a regional approach to development over and above the specific needs of the Palestinians.

The Washington donors' conference on the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli peace talks witnessed no less than 43 nations pledging a considerable, albeit insufficient, amount of international funds that will finance the birth of Palestinian self-government. By the end of the conference about \$2 billion was promised to bankroll the efforts to build Palestinian nationhood and institutions. Against this backdrop, the simultaneous meeting between President Clinton, Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres acquires an added importance since it has culminated in a greater appreciation of the need to expand the scope of economic support in order to reach other states in the Middle East.

In its own right, the projected joint working group is of far-reaching implications for the peace process. The group will certainly enable Jordan to participate more effectively in reconstruction and development of the occupied territories, something that many Jordanians and Palestinians would want to see happening.

But more importantly, the meeting opens new avenues for Jordan and Israel to reach lasting peace. It will help shape a final settlement whose objective is to ensure stability and progress for the whole region.

It is less certain, however, that such meetings, important as they may be, can on their own usher the start of a revolutionary process in dealings between the Arabs and Israel. Reconciliation and the establishment of normal relations, will take time, since the peoples have to be ready for them first. Jordanians in particular will need to see solid progress on the Palestinian and other Arab fronts before they make fundamental changes in attitudes towards Israel.

Besides, Jordan, which has shouldered a heavy responsibility since the beginnings of the Palestinian problem, has to be assured that the world recognises its important role in pushing the process forward and has to address its legitimate concerns.

To this effect we can only welcome President Clinton's pledge Friday to work towards reducing Jordan's debt burden, which is partly the result of the negative consequences of the Palestinian problem. More needs to be done, of course, for the peoples of this part of the world, in order to ensure lasting peace and prosperity. But we are hopeful that a step has been taken in the right direction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL THE Western nations support Boris Yeltsin against democracy and the Russian president's drive to oust the representatives of the people of Russia, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. The Western nations consider Mr. Yeltsin's actions to be in line with a Western-style democracy and therefore they continue to support him in the face of the people of Russia, added the daily. We should not be surprised at this Western attitude since this is the kind of democracy which the Western countries believe in and since the Western nations are only interested in insulting the people of the former Soviet Union and causing further divisions among the Russian ranks so that no more Russian or Soviet empire can be created later on and endanger Western interests, said the daily. The events in Russia open our eyes to a big lie called 'human rights' and another lie called 'world peace and security,' continued the paper. It said that during the communist regime, the West used to launch attacks on Moscow for stifling the voice of the people, but we see Mr. Yeltsin following the same policy and trying with all his might and with backing from the Western nations to silence the Russian people's voice.

AL DUSTOUR commented on a meeting in Washington between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, President Clinton and the Israeli foreign minister, saying that it came in response to Mr. Clinton's invitation. The tripartite meeting was required to pave the ground for a just and durable peace and to offer Jordan a better chance to present its case, said the paper. It said that Jordan hopes that through such a meeting it can bring about a change in Washington's stand and force Israel to accept the idea of exchanging land for peace. Prince Hassan has presented the Jordanian case and focused the Israeli and the American attention on the need for a peace based on justice and peace that can entail regional cooperation at all levels, including the future of refugees, economic cooperation and sharing of the region's water resources on equitable basis, said the daily. No protocols can bring about a just and comprehensive peace if the Palestinians are deprived of their rights, added the daily.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Lifting of economic boycott should not come by itself

ONE of the side effects of the Palestinian-Israeli accord is that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has provided Israel with a pass to the entire Arab World. If the reason behind the Arab economic boycott of Israel was the recovery of Palestinian rights, it may seem unjustified after the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, decided to recognise the state of Israel, to conclude a peace agreement with Israel, to cooperate economically with Israel through free trade, the establishment of joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial projects and to form joint committees to reconcile and coordinate with Arab countries over multilateral issues such as the exploration of the Dead Sea, tourism, water resources, and the like.

This is not the time to pass judgment on whether the agreement was among equals or to show the imbalance between the exchanged concessions and mutual recognitions, or, for that matter, to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.

We embark from the assumption that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is now a given. It is an independent Palestinian decision which we in Jordan have no alternative but to support. Dwelling on the shortcomings of the accord is not productive. We understand that the Palestinians went along with the deal because of the simple fact that Palestinians under Israeli occupation have nothing to lose even if the deal is not fair, which it was not, while they have a lot to gain if things develop in the right direction.

The alternative for reaching an early peace agreement is the continuation and suppression, confiscation of land in favour of Jewish settlers and the possible collapse of the PLO itself under the impact of financial and political crisis.

The question then is what should we, in Jordan, do regarding the boycott, especially when the superpower, America, started to put pressure for an early abolishment of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, without waiting for the formal conclusion of peace agreements with the Jewish state?

It may be right to argue that the Arab boycott was imposed by the Arab League and could not therefore be removed before a decision to that effect is made by the league. This may

ease the pressure on Jordan a little bit, at least for some time, but it is not a sufficient response because the Jordanian position is more advanced nationally than the position of the post-Gulf war Arab League in its new role under Esmat Abdul Meguid.

The league is more willing to yield to American pressure without even demanding a price for such huge concessions. As a matter of fact, the Arab League secretary general is more in a hurry than America itself. He complained recently that no Arab state has yet submitted a request or draft decision to abolish the Arab economic boycott to Israel.

Of course it is absurd to be required to trade with Israel before we are allowed to trade with Iraq. It is equally odd for America to be lecturing against the concept of economic boycott as a means of defence against an aggressor while it practices boycott against victims such as Cuba, Vietnam and Iraq.

We, of course, understand that a small country like Jordan cannot stand the pressure of the supreme power and that we have only logical arguments to support our point.

In our view, the early removal of boycott by Jordan requires, as a prerequisite, an early Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian occupied territories, an early division of water resources and early return of the Palestinian refugees of 1967 who opt for the return of their homeland.

Jordan has no cards to play against Israel except economic boycott, political recognition, normalisation of relations or unblocking the channel to the Arab World. We should not surrender any of these cards, even if specifically requested to do so by the PLO, except against answering our own demands and rights, which were officially acknowledged, explicitly or implicitly, in the agreed agenda between Jordan and Israel signed on Sept. 14, 1993.

If the United States is pressing Jordan for an early performance of its peace obligations, it should pressure Israel for early performance of its duties towards Jordan. An honest broker should be even-handed and leave aside double-standard practices.

M. KAHIL



Palestinians, Jordan plan economic integration

(Continued from page 1)

The official said a free zone area would be set up in the Jordan Valley in addition to guarantees for the free two-way movement of labour and transit of goods and the setting up of storage houses in the Jordan Valley for goods shipped between Palestine and Jordan.

He added that the Jordanian public and private sectors would assist Palestinians in building their infrastructure.

"The crossing points between the two banks will be expanded and probably new ones will be opened," he said. Other fields of cooperation include tourism, joint ventures, etc.

Mr. Qurai said that in economics, "we know of no total independent economy that exists, but we hope to achieve a strong viable independent Palestinian economy, and we have the necessary qualifications."

He said Palestinian requirements for a strong economy are at least \$12 billion in seven years — twice what the World Bank has estimated.

"With sufficient funds and if Palestinians follow a proper economic restructuring process, Palestinians can achieve an independent, strong economy in two years," Mr. Qurai said.

He said that overall investments required to achieve an independent national economy were estimated at \$11.6 billion for seven years in 1991 prices, and over \$13 billion in 1994 prices.

These estimates were proposed in the 500-page seven-year Palestinian Development Plan prepared three-and-a-half years ago by Mr. Qurai's Tunis-based department in coordination with 61 economic experts from the occupied territories and 25 Palestinian and Arab experts such as Dr. Jawad Al Anani and Dr. Taher Kanaan.

The purpose of the plan was to counter arguments in the early 80s which said that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state would not be economically viable.

Mr. Qurai said the World Bank, the European Community and other international agencies approved the Palestinian plan as a guideline for

future development projects to be set up in the occupied territories.

The PLO participated in a U.S.-sponsored global meeting in Washington on Friday to raise funds for the PLO-Israel peace plan. The World Bank said the Palestinians would need \$500 million to \$550 million a year over the next five years for a total of \$2.5 billion or more. This estimate was based on economic priorities mentioned in the Palestinian plan.

"We need \$6 billion in three years and \$2 billion/year for a period of seven years before we can have a strong independent economy," said Samir Abdullah, a member of the Palestinian peace team and a renowned economist, said.

He said that Palestinians estimated their needs by at least \$2 billion each year to enable them to reach the economic standards of other states in the Middle East region within a period of five to seven years.

Mr. Qurai said the World Bank's estimate, which is the guideline for the U.S.-sponsored fund-raising effort, "was short of our estimated needs and not sufficient to build the damaged economy of the occupied territories which has suffered total dependence on Israel and was tailored to benefit the occupation's economic needs for the past 26 years."

Mr. Qurai said the Oslo accord's economic annexes allow Palestinians to gradually build an independent economy.

"The accord's annexes stress the independence of the Palestinian economy... economic cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian economies is an Israeli admission to the principle of cooperation with an independent Palestinian entity," Mr. Qurai said. He added that according to the agreement, Israel has recognised the Palestinian economic rights such as equal utilisation of water, "but the process of achieving our full rights will be gradual."

Our water rights are 850 million cubic metres of which we are allowed to use only 120 million cubic metres. Our share will be gradually increased until we achieve our full water share rights," he

said. "This does not obstruct our right to build our independent economy."

He said Palestinian priorities for building this economy are the restructuring of the existing infrastructure which was set up to serve the Israeli occupation's economic needs and linking the Palestinian economy to that of Israel. The standard of living in the occupied territories is one tenth of that in Israel.

Palestinian per capita income is \$1000 in Gaza Strip and \$1400 in the West Bank, while it reached \$10,600-\$12,000 in Israel. The Palestinian economy makes up less than five per cent of the Israeli economy.

Mr. Qurai said among the Palestinians' priorities is the immediate setting up of the Palestinian economic and national institutions to efficiently administer the economy.

"These institutions should be free from any bureaucratic measures and should be dynamic in order to activate the Palestinian economy and its structures towards development and growth," he said.

Another pressing priority is the setting up of public and private sector projects that would absorb thousands of Palestinian workers and unemployed labour. Fifty per cent of the Palestinian labour force is unemployed, he said, adding that Palestinians will strive for a free economy which will depend on transparency and strict auditing in order to avoid corruption which would severely ruin any existing or emerging economy.

Taking into account some international donors' objections directly to the PLO, Mr. Qurai said: "Palestinians will not be receiving cash funds to build their economy; instead foreign aid will go to infrastructure projects, supervised by the Palestinians."

"We don't need cash money, we need projects," he said.

Mr. Qurai said the European Community and the U.S. were in disagreement over the mechanism by which major donors can coordinate donations with both the Israelis and Palestinians as well as with the World Bank.

"Whatever mechanism is set up by the World Bank, Palesti-

nians should have an active role and in its mandate," he said.

He said the PLO had set up an emergency authority which will supervise and coordinate development projects in the occupied territories with international donors. This Palestinian Emergency Development and Restructuring Authority (PEDRA) would be based in the occupied territories, he said.

"PEDRA will become the World Bank's partner in supervising projects," he said. "It will determine the kind of projects the occupied territories need, and any international agency or company that will implement a project will have to be subcontracted with PEDRA because Palestinians intend to employ their own workers and to benefit from the technology in use."

He warned international donors against bureaucratic restrictions and delays in channelling funds to the occupied territories because "seriously damaged conditions in these areas cannot afford any delays."

The PLO official said only qualified Palestinians and experts in all fields of life would be involved in the process of establishing and building the Palestinian institutions and interim government bodies in the occupied territories in order to ensure its success and continuation. "We will not have people running the show because of their contacts or past," he said, warning that the process of disengaging the closely intertwined Palestinian economy from that of Israel would be a difficult and gradual process.

Israel's acceptance to sign the PLO-Israel accord, from his point of view, was to prevent the sudden and forceful untangling of these links by Palestinians.

"The Palestinian market is the second most important market for Israel after the U.S., and the process of wresting the Palestinian economy out of Israel's hands is a painful one; therefore it will be gradual," he said.

He said the PLO considers Jordan, in this process, "the Palestinians' basic partner, and an agreement with Jordan on economic cooperation is a must."

Yeltsin drops bombshell on NATO plans to move East

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has dropped a bombshell on NATO just as the alliance had begun to consider whether it should move to the East by taking on some of its former Warsaw Pact foes as members.

Mr. Yeltsin warned Western governments in a letter this week not to expand NATO membership and instead suggested that his country and the alliance together could guarantee the security of Eastern Europe, diplomats in Paris have said.

While NATO declined all official comment, diplomats said the proposals could seriously hamper prospects for taking on new members and that they would infuriate countries like Poland and Hungary who are keen to join NATO.

"If this is right, it has really put a spoke in our wheels," said one alliance diplomat, who asked not to be identified. "I think a cloud of gloom will settle over NATO on the enlargement issue and you can imagine what the Eastern Europeans will think about Russia guaranteeing their security, so soon after they got out from Moscow's shadow."

Ironically, it was Mr. Yeltsin himself who put the whole issue of expanding NATO on the agenda when he said last month during a visit to Warsaw that it was entirely up to Poland to decide whether it wanted to join the alliance.

That remark sparked a debate in the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation about whether it should now accept Moscow's former communist satellites who are now eager for membership and security guarantees to protect them from possible threats.

While NATO allies themselves are unsure of how far and how fast they should go on taking on new members, diplomats say Mr. Yeltsin's comment in Warsaw had at least appeared to remove one of the obstacles to a discussion of the issue.

That is no longer true. Since the end of the cold war, NATO has refused to consider extending membership to others and has instead set up a "cooperation council" which provides di-

plomatic links with its former Warsaw Pact enemies. One of the reasons had been that moving NATO's frontiers to the East could upset Moscow and lead to renewed tension between the alliance and Europe's biggest military power.

Diplomats said it was clear Mr. Yeltsin had timed his appeal to calm hardline political and military opponents who have always argued that NATO was an aggressive organisation.

Mr. Yeltsin also seems worried that expansion of NATO would leave Russia isolated. Although he has said Russia would like to join one day, that is not likely to happen.

The one bright spot, diplomats said, was that Mr. Yeltsin was obviously keen to include Russia in European security arrangements — something the West badly wants.

Moscow is said to be particularly unhappy with Germany, which has been pushing the hardest to bring in eastern neighbours like Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic and for a decision to be made on that issue at a NATO summit in January.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said in a magazine interview published on Thursday that NATO should expand its links to Russia's Armed Forces.

"That would be much more important for the security of Europe than a hasty expansion of NATO to include Poland or Hungary," he said. "Russia must not be isolated. The goal must be to integrate Russia into the international community."

But diplomats said the Russian position was ambiguous.

As a democratic state, Russia knows it has no right to interfere in decisions about who joins alliances but it also has a key security interest in what happens near its borders.

Moreover, the memory is still fresh of when Eastern European nations were little more than Soviet satellites, with hundreds of thousands of troops stationed on their territories.

LETTERS

Cultural spontaneity

To the Editor:

No one can deny the fact that Jordan is taking long strides towards a richer cultural life. This is evident in the many cultural events and activities taking place in the Kingdom. However, one can feel that there is an important element missing: the cultural spontaneity. It is when such cultural activities are incorporated in everyday life that they become a spontaneous behavioural pattern and culture become a way of life; otherwise, cultural life will be devoid of roots, merely reduced to a kind of short-lived diversions that lack the power to interact with society.

Cultural spontaneity came to my mind when I recently passed through a back road in the vicinity of King Abdullah Street, where the birds and pet market usually takes place on Friday mornings.

It is an interesting, though primitive market. Although it is unorganised and lacks essential facilities, it is packed with consumers and loaded with goods; it has a wide variety of birds, including canaries, hawks, pigeons, geese, ducks and many other species. However, it was not before long that the police came and ordered the bird traders to immediately evacuate the area because they were blocking the road.

It is pertinent at this point to mention that this manner of law enforcement, through the use of loudspeakers, regardless of whether the situation warrants it or not, is reminiscent of old-time practices in the most backward countries.

It is high time that such markets be established, considering the cultural and economic values they entail. It is neither costly nor difficult to provide a place in Amman or in its vicinity for such an event to take place.

These markets, such as those that exist in Paris or other European capitals as well as in some parts of the Arab World, are certainly interesting and might develop into permanent institutions reflecting wider economic, cultural and artistic aspects and attracting local and tourist interest.

Fayez Musa Abdul Nabi,
Amman

Together for the truth

To the Editor:

It is with immense enthusiasm and absolute dismay that I write to you in regard to your article entitled "The arduous road to higher education" (Jordan Times, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1993). Enthusiasm because it is my belief that the article is long overdue and should have been published a while back, as this has been an ongoing problem in our society for quite some time. Dismay at the lack of professional journalism in the manner of the presentation of the article.

The writer has clearly failed in his duty to contact the other side of the story, in this case the U.S. embassy in Amman. Perhaps the writer had in fact attempted to unsuccessfully contact the appropriate officials at the embassy. If such were the case, then this should have undoubtedly been enclosed in the article.

I am an avid and loyal reader of your esteemed newspaper and such mishaps greatly sadden me. It is my hope that we can all, especially the professionals of this country, work together in presenting the true face of Jordan to the outside world as well as to the country's residents.

Mona Mehregani,
P.O. Box 7176,
Amman 11118.

Somalia experience makes Clinton gun-shy on Bosnia

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The painful lessons of U.S. involvement in Somalia are making President Bill Clinton gun-shy as he plans for possible American peacekeeping in Bosnia, the tinderbox of World War I.

When he entered the White House eight months ago, Mr. Clinton was itching to help stop the 17-month civil war in the former Yugoslavia, which has killed tens of thousands of

civilians. He had blasted former President George Bush for inaction.

But the reluctance of European allies to act more forcibly to end the ethnic bloodletting between Bosnian Muslims, Croats and Serbs and the quagmire that entangles U.S. peacekeepers in Somalia is making Mr. Clinton, who has pledged up to 25,000 troops to a multi-national peacekeeping force, more cautious.

"I think that everyone involved in Bosnia is perhaps

more sensitive than was the case in the beginning of the Somalia operation about the dangers of it, and the need to have a strict set of limitations and conditions before the involvement occurs," he told reporters this week.

Mr. Bush sent 25,000 troops to Somalia in "Operation Restore Hope" last December to help a starving population caught in the middle of a power struggle between rival Somali warlords.

Some 4,700 remain, sporadically under attack from outlaw forces, with no firm strategy on timetable for getting out.

Fifteen Americans have been killed since the mission began — three last weekend — prompting increasing congressional concern that the United States is stuck in a quagmire.

The House of Representatives and the Senate, for example, have approved a non-binding resolution calling on Mr. Clinton to seek congressional approval by Nov. 15 for keeping troops in Somalia.

Mr. Clinton and his foreign policy advisers have laid out a series of tests that must be met before U.S. troops are sent to the Balkans: The peace agreement between Bosnia's warring factions must be fair and enforceable. Congress must approve the deployment and NATO, not the United Nations, must command the peacekeeping force.

The command-and-control requirement could be a problem for Britain and France, America's major partners in

the operation. They have no objection to letting an American general run the show, but fear that making it a total NATO operation would let rich U.N. member countries like Japan avoid sharing the financial cost.

U.S. officials have also spoken of other pre-conditions, like requiring that a "date certain" be set in advance for a U.S. withdrawal from Bosnia.

"There was never any date certain that was established with Somalia. What we're thinking in terms of Bosnia is that there would be a date certain," U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said on Monday. Asked in a public television interview how long the U.S. commitment would last, Mr. Aspin said: "I don't know — a year, two years, 18 months."

"I don't know what it would be. But... we, NATO, would undertake to do this for a certain amount of time and then we would turn the problem back to the U.N."

Anthony Lake, Mr. Clinton's national security adviser, denies that the U.S. administration is attaching an impossible tough set of strings to American involvement in Bosnia to give Mr. Clinton an excuse to avoid a potential political nightmare.

"It would be a mistake to see this as an effort to put conditions on our participation in a way that would preclude it," said Mr. Lake.

But the president's men are mindful that the assassination of Hapsburg Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo plunged Europe into World War I, and that tens of thousands of German troops were unable to pacify Yugoslavia during World War II.

"They would also like to keep Americans focused on health care reform and the rest of Mr. Clinton's domestic agenda, which could make or break his presidency."

Washington's agonising over rules of engagement for U.S. peacekeeping in Bosnia may be moot for now since Bosnia's Muslim parliament voted Wednesday to accept a peace plan for Bosnia only if "territory seized by force" is returned.

Disgusted with politics, Russians yawn through crisis

By Alan Cooperman
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Go out on the streets and ask Russians what they think of the standoff between Boris Yeltsin and the parliament. More often than not, you get a one-word answer: "Nadoylelo" — sick of it.

It's not just harped wire, water cannons and flak-jacketed riot police that have isolated about 100 defiant lawmakers in the parliament building, or White House. It's disgust with politics.

"We're fed up," Otto Latsis, political commentator for the newspaper Izvestia, said Wednesday.

A few thousand years of extreme interest in politics — I'd say unnaturally high interest. We're tired of it. People see that things do not get better just because now they can choose their leaders democratically.

"They see more politics, but daily life has gotten worse. They are really sick of it, really tired and disappointed," Mr. Latsis said.

Mr. Yeltsin's tactics have worked so far. Since he dissolved parliament Sept. 21 and hard-line lawmakers barricaded themselves in the White House, he has laid a severe but non-violent siege.

Police have ringed the building. Electricity, heat, hot water and telephones have been cut off. Defectors have been lured away with government jobs.

In these conditions, public indifference clearly helps the president. If the lawmakers are isolated and ignored, eventually their will must break.

One possibility still gnaws at Mr. Yeltsin's camp: that the lawmakers or their volunteer guards, desperate to attract attention and save face, could provoke violence by opening fire from the White House.

For many Russians, Mr. Yeltsin's decree disbanding parliament and calling new elections was less important than the sudden, early onset of winter.

Over the weekend, they rushed to bring in the last

vegetables from their gardens and pickle them for the long months ahead.

As snow flurries gave way to a cold, wind-driven rain Wednesday, Muscovites slogged through the streets with grim determination written on their faces.

They went to work. They went to school. They went shopping if they could stomach the dizzying prices — up 378 per cent already this year.

Except for a very small area near the White House that was cordoned off by shivering policemen, the capital betrayed no sign of crisis. Subways, trolleys, stores, factories, theatres, cafes and casinos all ran normally.

A few thousand mainly elderly demonstrators in a city of nine million people have rallied to the parliament's side. The only widespread passion generated by the crisis is the anger of motorists caught in huge traffic jams created by the White House barricades.

The general attitude is not so much apathy as disdain.

When two branches of government fight, both of them drop in public opinion," Grigory Pashkov, an independent pollster, said Wednesday.

"This confrontation has gone on for months too long. Neither side's arguments evoke much interest or sympathy anymore."

Pushed to choose, 50 to 60 per cent of Russians say they favour Mr. Yeltsin and 15 to 20 per cent support the parliament. The rest are undecided, according to recent polls by Mr. Pashkov and others.

What happened to the politically electrified Russians who opposed the August 1991 communist coup attempt and, before that, who rallied by the tens of thousands both for and against Mikhail Gorbachev.

"For decades we had been repressed. Politics had been secret, something only in the Kremlin. Then suddenly we were allowed into it. We could choose our own leaders, we could affect things," Mr. Latsis recalled.

"It was an extreme politicalisation. It could not last."

Syrian artist captures nature on canvas

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Born in 1922, Fathi Moudarres was among the founders of the plastic arts movement in his native Syria. This accomplished artist studied in Syria and furthered his education in Italy and France. His works have been exhibited in countries like Italy, U.S., Germany, Sweden, France, South America, ex-USSR, Great Britain and the Arab World.

His latest acrylics, oils and gouaches now grace the halls of the Baladna Art Gallery, where they will be on display until Oct. 6, 1993.

The nature canvases represent vast expanses under vast skies. Primeval colours — opaque greys, muted blues and reddish ochres — are those of nature as it must have been in times immemorial, chaotic, untrampled by the human being.

Vegetation is primitive, wild, entangled, unattended by the destructive, order-obsessed, man. Mustard yellow here and there gives zest and animates the still nature.

One powerful painting, that maybe should have been the first to watch, is that where sky and earth come together in a vortex of colours suggestive of the labour pains of creation. The tumult of genesis and the nebulous mass resulted exude sheer force.

In subsequent paintings the colours are sober, the fire of conception is not entirely gone, the sun has not come to shine over the distinct entities that have settled down to their

known shape. The universe is still angry, the skies overcast, it will take some time to accept the new born.

Blue, brick, grey, khaki predominate, with a little purple dabbed to brighten the images, beralding a more cheerful future for planet Earth.

On a simpler level, this group of paintings could be easily interpreted as nature at

different times of the year, the semi-arid vegetation of the region represented by the reddish, sterile soil and the sparse species of plants.

Sketched nudes and human figures are interspersed with these nature frames, to become strongly represented in another section of the gallery.

Ethnic (or military) figures, almost stylised, gain strength

and assert themselves as they become, from sandy pink and orange ochre, dark and blue and sin, poppy red.

Paired or in a crowd, the figures huddle together, serious faced, deciding the fate of the things to come.

Three figures in a bottle, torsos made up of faces, faces just staring at you blankly,

heads alone or busts alone, the strong-coloured paintings reflect the artist's desire to experiment, to express and impress.

One bedouin woman (with a headscarf) and a child are more close to home, represent an image which could place this universal artist in the region he lives in.



Two of Syrian artist Fathi Moudarres' works on display at Baladna Art Gallery

Taiwan seeks to widen foreign aid

velopment goals and tailor a comprehensive development plan to each country.

Loans offered

Other than technology transfers, the ROC's International Economic Cooperation Development Fund, set up in 1988, offers low-interest direct/indirect loans mainly to the national development projects of diplomatic allies and those maintaining friendly ties with the ROC.

The financial aid is managed by an ad hoc committee of the fund, composed of top ROC officials in foreign affairs, economics, transportation, communications and banking. Thirteen such loan programmes, involving \$180 million, have been processed.

A third major foreign-aid approach is personnel training. More than 600 technicians and managers from some 60 countries have come to Taiwan for training in taxation systems, the operation of small to medium-sized businesses, bank financing and agricultural development.

Typical of Taiwan's aid project is a \$10 million computerisation programme to help the Philippine government with tax administration and information management.

Costa Rica has received \$15 million in loans to finance small to medium-sized export businesses and to create jobs. Costa Rica's state-financed BES Engineering Corp. has also received \$333,000 to help develop an industrial export zone. Factories in the zone, to be completed later this year, will be available for sale to Taiwan investors.

El Salvador has received \$20 million and technical help to develop its power generating system.

On the private aid front, the Tzu Chi Buddhist Charity Foundation is providing \$773,000 in medical aid to Ethiopia and also has raised \$11.5 million for flood victims in mainland China.

Despite the government's aggressive efforts and financial strength, its manoeuvring room on foreign aid is limited by the ROC's lack of membership in many international



In July of last year, workers loaded 100,000 tonnes of rice aboard a cargo ship in Taichung Harbor in central Taiwan. The ship set sail directly to Russia, the first such voyage from Taiwan in more than 40 years, to deliver the ROC food aid to the former Communist state.

organisations.

"If we had remained in the United Nations, there are a variety of peripheral organisations through which we would have much more information about foreign aid," said Patrick Hsu, director of international affairs for the ROC's Red Cross Society.

As a non-member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Taiwan has no access to their information about which nations need what aid. Without membership, it also has fewer channels to information about such things as global environmental protection, Mr. Lu of the Foreign Ministry said.

Still, Taiwan was able to join the Inter-America Development Bank in November 1992 and actively involved itself in the IDB's raising of funds to invigorate Latin American economies.

Through the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the ROC offers low-interest loans to Eastern European countries despite its lack of EBRD membership.

Officials stress that the private sector also has an important role in foreign aid, especially in countries that have no

formal ties with the ROC.

Even though Taiwan ranks among the world's top holders of foreign exchange reserves and is the 14th largest trading power, most of its wealth is in private hands. Moreover, the government's foreign aid activities are subject to review by the legislature.

Therefore, the government has been encouraging private enterprises, mainly small to medium-sized ones, to invest in Latin America. It has offered loan-interest subsidies of 2 to 2.5 per centage points. But only two applicants have taken advantage of these investment incentives so far.

Regulations revised

Regulations have been revised to expand the financial incentives to conglomerates. The Foreign Ministry has also proposed setting up an International Cooperation Development Fund, if the legislature agrees. The fund would be responsible for the overall planning of the ROC's foreign aid and would also encourage private companies to invest, Mr. Lu said. The fund would give loan priority to countries that can provide ROC businesses with needed mate-

rials or can provide their own financial incentives for ROC business investment.

At present, the private sector is most active through the emergency humanitarian aid and disaster relief provided by such organisations as the Red Cross Society of the ROC, World Vision of Taiwan and the Tzu Chi Foundation.

World Vision, whose primary task used to be executing local aid programmes with U.S. funds, is now raising funds from Taiwan sources for aid abroad.

In 1992, WVT launched a 30-Hour Famine Campaign to raise \$2.5 million for emergency relief in eight African countries. The campaign's popularity led to a second event in 1993, when 100,000 people participated in raising \$4.3 million to finance 21 relief projects in 17 African, Asian and Latin American countries.

Tzu Chi, which has 3.2 million members, is becoming an increasingly active donor at home and abroad as its branch offices in the United States, Canada and Japan.

These charitable groups, both religious in nature, are qualified to provide developing countries with medium-to long-term assistance. The Red Cross, however, is mainly responsible for emergency disaster relief, during armed conflicts and natural catastrophes.

Even when no campaign has been launched, some people and companies send the Red Cross money when they hear reports of disasters, said Mr. Hsu of the Red Cross.

He called for "privatisation of foreign aid," suggesting that the government increase relief funds to local and international charities. The United States, Australia and other countries have increasingly subsidized their private groups, he added.

40 countries aided

Over the past five years, the ROC government has provided about \$117 million in humanitarian aid to more than 40 countries, including the Commonwealth of Independent States in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse.

During the 1991 Gulf war, Taiwan contributed \$12 million in monetary aid and another

\$10 million worth of food, blankets and other items to Kurdish refugees and other victims of the war.

"As time passes, our services have expanded to natural and human disaster prevention, precaution, rehabilitation and reconstruction," Mr. Hsu said.

A best-case scenario would be for organisations like the Red Cross to provide emergency shelter during disasters, while others like World Vision and Tzu Chi finance the construction of medium-to long-term housing. The ROC government's role could be to help poorer countries strengthen their economies so they can develop their own housing programmes.

The private sector, which now offers humanitarian aid mostly in cash and goods, should follow the govern-

ment's example by sending professionals and technicians to needy countries, Mr. Hsu said.

Doctors, nurses and other professionals from northern European countries often go to African countries as volunteers. But in Taiwan, voluntary community service is something mainly for housewives or retired people, or is limited to after-work or after-school hours.

Taiwan has yet to set up a system in which a doctor or other professional can serve in a war-torn country for a couple of months without having his job or practice taken by others, Mr. Hsu noted.

"I believe there must be people who are attracted to such hands-on service in famine-ridden African countries and who would be willing to do it," he said.

Government plans to set up 'economics peace corps'

The ROC is planning to form an "economics peace corps" to aid economic and industrial development in developing nations friendly to Taiwan.

The corps will be modeled after the United States Peace Corps, which has sent more than 130,000 volunteers to developing countries in its 30 years of existence.

U.S. Peace Corps was founded in 1961 by President Kennedy and sends more than 3,000 volunteers overseas each year.

The proposed ROC peace corps will operate under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and seek not only to promote development in foreign countries but also improve the ROC's standing in the world community.

Ministry officials said they are in the final stages of forming the organisation and expect the ROC to send its first

peace corps volunteers overseas by July of next year.

The ministry said Taiwan had large investments in Southeast Asian countries and those countries are the most likely targets for the peace corps.

At first, the economic peace corps will target countries which are considered friendly to Taiwan. Later, however, it will seek to branch out to less developed countries who may not recognise the ROC.

The peace corps is seen as a long-term investment in Taiwan's future, the department added.

The department is working out details about training for the volunteers and indicated training would be similar to methods used by both the U.S. and Japanese Peace Corps.

Aid to allies favoured

The ROC government is most inclined to offer official

ILO reports up to 50 per cent Palestinians jobless

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment among Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip ranges from 25 to 50 per cent, and per capita income is estimated at \$1,000 to 2,000 a year, a U.N. report said Friday.

The report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was released to coincide with a conference here Friday at which countries from around the world pledged nearly \$2

billion for the Palestinian self-government being established in the West Bank and Gaza.

An ILO team that visited the territories last March found sorry examples of why the Palestinians need this aid if the experiment in self-government, achieved through an historic agreement between the PLO and Israel, is to succeed.

The team found, for example, that a U.N. relief organisation advertising for eight

sanitation workers in Gaza received 11,655 applications — some 10 per cent of the strip's estimated labour force.

A major obstacle to any economic advancement is the lack of industrial employment in both the Gaza and West Bank, the report said. In Gaza, for example, it counted 1,710 businesses that employ 7,039 people — but only eight of the establishments employ more than 50 workers.

Israeli census figures put the

population of the territories at 1.67 million in 1991, but Palestinians contend it's closer to two million.

In any case, the population is increasing at a rapid rate — over five per cent in 1991, the ILO said. As a result, half the population is under the age of 15 — presenting an even greater challenge for the future in terms of their employment and education, the report said.

If current trends continue, the Palestinian labour force

which is now roughly estimated at 312,000 is expected to grow well over 10,000 a year for the rest of the decade, the report predicted.

Some 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel — but their employment is repeatedly threatened when Israeli security forces seal off the territories after anti-Israeli violence.

"Over the years, the territories have become utterly dependent on Israel as a provider of wage employment and as a

source of the products they buy," the ILO said.

The economic imbalance is reflected in the disparity between per capita incomes in the territories and in Israel. In 1991, the last year for which figures are available, income was estimated at \$2,040 for the West Bank and \$1,250 in Gaza — compared to \$11,480 for Israel, the report said.

Unemployment among Israelis reached 11.2 per cent in 1992.

Spain launches '94 budget to combat recession

MADRID (R) — Spain's Socialist government has presented a restrictive 1994 budget aimed at curbing the state deficit and stimulating investment and job creation.

The 24,000-page package went to parliament against a background of failed talks with trade unions and business on a social pact to fight the country's deep recession and surging unemployment, now more than 22 per cent of the workforce.

Economy Minister Pedro Solbes told a news conference: "1993 has been a difficult year, economic recuperation did not occur. For 1994 the outlook is somewhat more favourable."

He forecast that Spanish business would feel the benefit of recent devaluations of the peseta and that investment and consumer demand would rise next year after falling in 1993.

But unemployment would continue to rise to reach 23.4 per cent by the end of 1994, Mr. Solbes said.

The budget, which will not complete its passage through parliament until almost the end of the year, forecasts government spending to fall 1.3 per cent in 1994 to 16.5 trillion pesetas (\$127 billion) and revenue to rise 3.7 per cent to

13.2 trillion pesetas (\$101.5 billion).

It targets the central government deficit at 5.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), with the overall public deficit, including central and autonomous regional governments, expected to be 6.7 per cent of GDP, compared with estimates above seven per cent for 1993.

The budget puts 1994 inflation at 3.5 per cent against this year's expected 4.5 per cent and economic growth of 1.3 per cent compared with forecast 0.8 per cent contraction in 1993.

Economic analysts, commenting before publication of the detailed figures but after the cabinet approved the final draft, saw the 1994 budget as more realistic than previous years.

"It looks reasonable — a lot better than some of the numbers they have thrown at us in the past," said an analyst for a major Spanish bank.

But economists also stress that success in achieving a tripartite social pact, with a wage deal at its heart, is at least as important as cutting the deficit. Progress so far, after several weeks of tough talking, has been minimal.

Libyan paper tells Arabs to move money to China

TUNIS (R) — A newspaper close to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Friday that Arabs should move their financial assets to China.

Al Shams (the sun), a Libyan newspaper quoted by the official news agency JANA, said the move should be

accompanied by a trade, investment and cultural boycott of the West.

With Libya facing the prospect of further U.S. sanctions in its dispute with the West over the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing, the newspaper commented:

"If we want to get out from the impasse... the truth is that the world's circumstances permit us one response only — turning our back on the West and going east to China... No to the West's goods, trade and investments, yes to China where there is no colonialism."

Buckingham Palace makes £1.8m profit on visitors

LONDON (AFP) — Buckingham Palace made a profit of £1.75 million (\$2.6 million) from the 380,000 visitors who toured its rooms this summer, British newspapers reported Friday.

The palace, which closed its doors Friday afternoon, said it received an average daily attendance of 7,000 persons for the first season in which it has offered tours to the public.

Visitors who walked through 19 of the 600 rooms paid £8 (\$12) a head for admission and spent an average of £7 in the souvenir shop.

Newspapers calculated Friday that with 380,000 visitors, the takings would yield profits of £1.75 million (\$2.6 million) after costs.

But the profits leave Queen Elizabeth II far from the £40 million she needs to repair Windsor Castle, the stated aim of opening the palace doors. The castle was severely damaged by fire in November 1992.

The palace has said it intends to continue offering tours in summer, when the queen normally stays at Balmoral in Scotland, through 1997.

While the attendance was lower than the 8,000 a day the palace had expected, the sales at the curio shop were far greater than anticipated.

Palace staff had to make more space available to the souvenir shop as visitors queued up to buy crown-shaped chocolates, tea cups, crystal glass and ties bearing the royal coat of arms.

The shop's turnover exceeded £40,000 (\$60,000) on some days, and could have been higher if supplies of certain items had not run out.

Producers move to protect commodity prices

LONDON (R) — Commodity producers, only too aware that their main customers in the West will not or cannot help, tried this week to deal with the pain of low prices and oversupply by themselves.

On Friday, the world's leading coffee producers started an agreement which will keep 20 per cent of their exports off the market in the hope that prices will rise.

Earlier in the week the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) boosted its waning credibility when ministers agreed in Geneva on production quotas for the next six months.

The market was impressed enough by the OPEC deal to send prices shooting above \$17 a barrel, while coffee prices are almost double the 20-year lows they touched last year.

Coffee prices actually fell quite sharply during the week, mainly on technical factors, but traders said they were approaching a floor and the market was waiting to see how the export retention scheme worked.

In the case of both coffee and oil, market analysts have expressed reservations about whether the agreements will hold long enough to have a lasting influence.

"There remain doubts about the viability of the producers' scheme," one senior coffee trade source said.

Analysts expressed the same worries over the accord by OPEC, which operates one of the world's longest surviving commodity pacts but is riddled with internal squabbles.

The need for producers to deal with the problems facing nearly all commodities — low prices, poor demand and high production — was underscored when the United States announced this week that it was pulling out of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) after 30 years.

"The absence of the U.S. is very damaging. I believe that if we want to have a healthy organisation and particularly a meaningful one, we should have the U.S. inside," said the Brazilian delegate to the talks, Valdemar Carneiro Leao.

Several consumer countries are shunning pacts with economic strings attached, preferring to leave prices to the market.

Some producers say the consumers may change their tune if production drops, demand rises and prices soar.

Nearly all commodity prices have been hit hard by the global recession, seen most clearly in the major non-ferrous metals which are widely used in industry.

Copper prices slumped to six-year lows this week and other metals like nickel and tin hit their lowest levels for decades.

Some rebounded towards the end of the week but dealers say that a lack of demand and record stocks — the London Metal Exchange warehouses alone hold more than four million tonnes of metal — paint a bleak picture for the shorter term.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Paris-based think-tank for leading industrial nations, offered little cheer Thursday when it revised

downwards its growth estimates for the key world economies — the United States, Japan and Germany.

Analysts say metals producers will still struggle when industrial economies pick up and output cuts look increasingly likely. For some producers, market prices which remain below production costs for an

extended period will force closures.

Nickel has suffered one of the steepest price falls and the top producer, INCO Ltd of Canada, plans to discuss cutbacks.

Even gold has been unable to shine much after a glittering summer.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Working out your overall goals and objectives with the three Moon times to Venus, Uranus and Neptune is especially productive today. Be meticulous, conscientious. Get out publicly this evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to let your powerful perceptions come to the forefront since they can now indicate to you the manner in which you can best succeed in any project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An outside associate who is pretty determined to have his/her own way can be the source of opportunity for you to show how well you can handle the situation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are some persons looking for you to serve their best interests which will also be good for you to consider how this can best be made to work.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about the various recreations in which you wish to engage and set aside specific time when you will be able to do this and make appointments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A time to delve deeply into all matters and conditions at your residence and decide a procedure of action whereby you can enhance harmony there.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about the ideas that can best serve your routine

purpose and activities and organise them so they become a part of your daily existence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) During today's quiet hours you can study and find out better ways to have more abundance and to increase your property value for the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you have a day to get into the various things that mean the most to you of a personal nature and to go after them with confidence for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to find out what financial advantages are available so you will be able to make appointments with them and renew your association.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need far more support to gain the aims that most strongly pressure and activate you is strong now so look about for those able to help.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are many worldly interests that are important to you as a humanitarian. Aquarian and this is the day to decide how best to express this talent.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have this day to expand your horizons and study, look into new ways by which you will be able to bring anticipated benefits to yourself.

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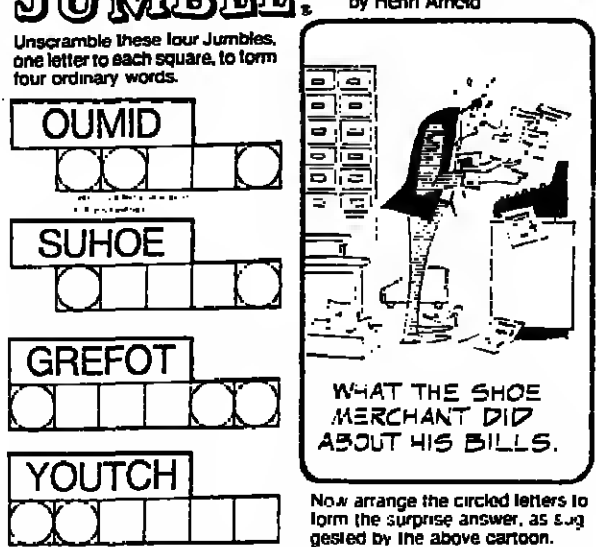
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THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"What a bummer! I'm five pounds overweight and I think I'm starting to go bald!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PUDGY GOING BICEPS OVERT

He hoped to make a big splash with the ladies but turned out to be this — A BIG ORIP

Peanuts



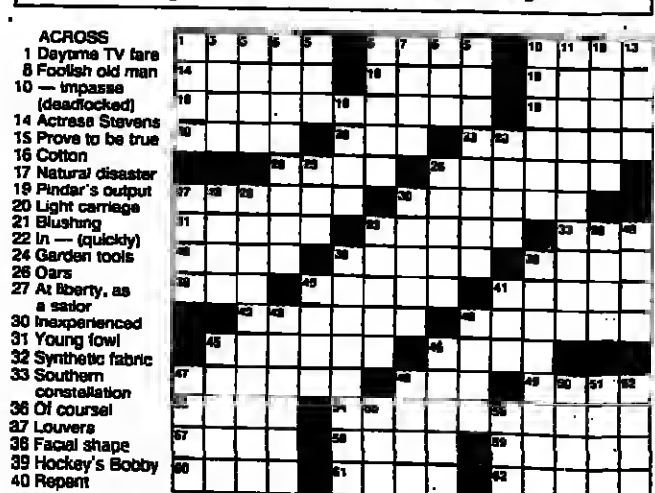
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

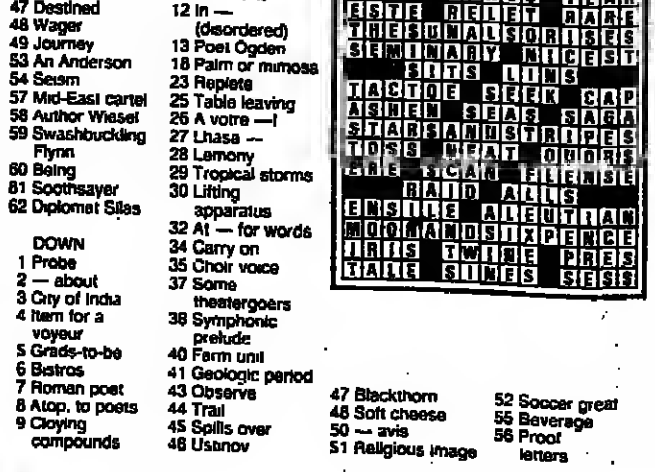


THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson



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Puzzle Solved:



Poland, Russia form venture to build gas pipeline

WARSAW (R) — Polish and Russian state-owned gas monopolists formed a company a joint stock company to build and operate the Polish section of a pipeline carrying gas from Russia to western Europe, Polish officials have said.

Janusz Tokarzewski, a director at Polskie Gornictwo Naftowe i Gazownictwo (PGNIG) said his firm and Russia's Gazprom each held 48 per cent of the EuroPol Gaz's 800 billion zloty (\$42 million) share capital.

Mr. Tokarzewski, a PGNIG director, said the remaining four per cent stake belonged to Gas Trading, a Polish-Russian-German company controlled by the Russian and Polish monopolists.

"The EuroPol Gaz should be officially registered within a few days and will start off with designing studies," Mr. Tokarzewski said.

Under an August agreement signed by Polish and Russian presidents the two countries would cooperate on building the Polish part of a 4,000 kilometre pipeline carrying natural gas from Russia's Arctic north to Germany.

It is expected to carry about 67 billion cubic metres of gas a year and should be completed by 2010. Officials have estimated total cost at about \$10 billion and the cost of investment in the Polish sector will be about \$3 billion.

Polish officials said the first pipes would be laid in April next year and the first supplies of gas were expected to flow through the pipeline in 1995.

Arab League urges members to pursue economic reforms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab League has urged its members to pursue reforms to attract investment and heal their economies, which have been smothered by decades of state control and mismanagement of aid.

In a study by its economic department, the Cairo-based league said such reforms had become more pressing to achieve the long-sought integration among its 22 members and face competition from emerging giant economic blocs.

It said the reforms should cover all sectors, including monetary stability, removal of restrictions on currency exchange rates and capital transfer, improvement of the investment climate and upgrading management and efficiency.

"Arab economic integration remains the main pillar for encountering growing challenges facing member states in a world where the role of large economic blocs is increasing," it said in the study, published by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) semi official daily Al Itihad.

"The most important means for integration are attaining sustainable development and economic stability, boosting intra-Arab trade and encouraging domestic investment. All this could be realised through economic reform policies which will help achieve similarity in Arab economic policies," the study continued.

Several Arab states have launched reforms at their own initiative or instructions by the International Monetary Fund to revive their economies, which are suffering from large debts, slow growth, unemployment and low investment

mainly because of strong state control.

The reforms gained momentum after the 1991 Gulf war as oil-rich states in the region said they were now linking aid to economic reforms.

The Gulf move came after economic problems in most Arab nations persisted although they have received more than \$350 million in aid, remittances and other cash flow over the past 20 years.

From \$115 billion in 1985, Arab debt soared to \$152 billion in 1991 and debt servicing

to \$16.8 billion from \$10.4 billion. A budget deficit in non-oil Arab states persisted, reaching \$7.3 billion while the deficit in the trade and balance of payments stood at \$16.2 billion and \$15.9 billion respectively.

But some Arab countries have reported improvement as they pressed ahead with economic reforms, which are concentrating on privatisation and investment. A budget deficit in Egypt was nearly halved while it disappeared in Syria and it turned into a surplus in Jordan.

"Reforms are the only means for Arab states to activate their economies after massive aid has produced no results due to misuse of funds," said a report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

"Such reforms have improved the Arab debt situation, with the debt of low and medium income members declining by three per cent to 108 per cent of their gross domestic product and debt servicing to 18.9 per cent of their exports," the report added.

German parliament approves holiday pay cuts

BONN (R) — The German parliament passed a controversial law Friday under which workers will have their pay cut by a fifth on 10 public holidays to compensate employers for the cost of a new nursing insurance scheme.

The proposal approved in the Bundestag, the lower house, means pay cheques will be smaller in months in which holidays such as Christmas, Easter and German unity day occur.

Workers will be offered the choice of giving up two days' holiday instead.

The law is intended to compensate firms for contributions to a new insurance plan that will provide long-term nursing care for Germany's growing population of old people.

The government says businesses already face excessive wage and tax bills and

must be compensated to prevent the nursing insurance from undermining their competitiveness.

"It is a question of avoiding a threat to jobs," Labour

Minister Norbert Blum told parliament.

Unions have threatened strikes if the law is implemented as planned from Jan. 1 and it also faces constitutional challenges in Germany's supreme court.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who control the upper house of parliament, strongly oppose the new legislation.

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BANK OF JORDAN	1,085	4.350	4.320
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	26,529	2.000	2.080
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT BANK	80,865	4.000	4.150
THE JORDAN BANK	72,230	5.780	5.650
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	80,643	3.130	3.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	9,200	2.320	2.400
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	816	4.850	4.820
RESERVE BANK	227,703	4.350	4.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	14,905	6.350	6.350
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	9,200	2.320	2.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	227,703	4.350	4.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	204,621	2.640	2.730
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,250	3.350	3.500
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	53,143	2.580	2.560
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,250	3.350	3.500
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	87,630	3.600	3.600
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	463,912	2.150	2.400
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	12,900	7.600	7.500
JORDANIAN ELECTRICITY	9,000	1.390	1.230
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	204,621	2.640	2.730
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	17,988	6.680	6.720
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	60,342	4.500	4.120
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	880	1.700	1.700
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	7,158	4.540	4.540
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	9,750	2.000	2.050
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	1,140	1.140	1.140
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	2,000	20.000	20.000
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	1,100	10.000	11.000
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	58,032	2.560	2.270
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	20,613	2.740	2.750
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	1,028	1.028	1.080
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	1,170,752	3.020	3.100
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	10,000	10,000	10,000
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	97,851	7.410	7.600
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	50,430	11.150	11.500
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	196,177	6.700	6.900
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	15,750	7.450	7.550
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	14,038	3.500	3.500
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	400	4.050	4.000
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	30,276	2.630	2.600
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	9,000	0.290	0.290
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	187,071	16.500	17.500
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	12,258	2.700	2.800
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	161,042	9.900	10.000
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	52,345	1.750	1.750
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	4,425	0.300	0.320
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	10,470	5.500	5.650
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	45,688	3.500	3.700
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	3,263	2.570	2.570
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	53,251	0.950	0.950
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	2,576	1.050	1.050
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	0,000	0.300	0.300
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	69,985	6.320	6.600
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	13,210	3.700	3.710
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	13,210	3.700	3.710
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	8,198	1.500	1.550
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	23,345	1.450	1.470
JORDANIAN GULF INVESTMENT	2,458	5.500	5.500
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 30/9/93	New York Close 1/10/93
Sterling Pound	1.4960	1.5050
Deutsche Mark	1.6345	1.6308
Swiss Franc	1.4255	1.4235
French Franc	5.6968	5.6915
Japanese Yen	106.18	106.00
European Currency Unit	1.1744**	1.1633

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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 2/10/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.03	3.25	3.34	3.50
Sterling Pound	5.94	5.88	5.75	5.69
Deutsche Mark	6.80	6.62	6.31	5.92
Swiss Franc	4.59	4.50	4.18	4.09
French Franc	7.06	7.00	6.69	6.16
Japanese Yen	2.46	2.43	2.43	2.43
European Currency Unit	7.75	7.65	7.31	6.56

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Other Currencies
Date: 2/10/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharai Dinar	1.8110	1.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.0379	0.0407
Saudi Riyal	0.1848	0.1855
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1873	0.1885
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2220
Omani Riyal	1.7620	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1873	0.1885
Greek Drachma	0.2900	0.3100
Cypriot Pound	1.3825	1.4175

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Relief drive launched for survivors of Indian quake

UMARGA, India (R) — Indian army units used bulldozers Saturday to uncover up to 30,000 people dead or missing after India's worst earthquake for 50 years as relief teams set up shelters to house the living.

Heavy rains around Latur, near the epicentre of Thursday's killer earthquake, temporarily halted mass cremations of the dead and efforts to search for survivors in the rubble of ruined homes, residents and police said.

"We can't even burn the bodies," said Chandrakant Panchal, a resident of Latur. "The rains are so heavy that work has come to a standstill. Half-burned bodies are stinking all over the place."

Local police said at least 30,000 people were dead or missing in 73 villages in the disaster area. The estimate was based on a survey of affected villages and the number of families in each, said Bipin Bihari, superintendent of police for the Latur district.

One local paper put the death toll at 44,000.

Sharad Pawar, chief minister

of the western state of Maharashtra where the earthquake struck early Thursday, said temporary shelters were being erected in 50 villages to help supply food and health care to dazed survivors.

"It is a very challenging situation," he told reporters. "We have not seen in independent India this type of earthquake in half a century."

As offers of help poured in from around the world, Mr. Pawar said he had sufficient doctors and medical staff to cope with the thousands of people injured when their homes made of large stones and mud toppled in on them as they slept.

"We have 250 doctors and 1,000 nurses now in the area," said Mr. Pawar. "There is no need for more."

He said the government was focusing on providing shelter and potable drinking water for survivors, and medical help for the injured.

"The second priority is to remove debris to find the bodies underneath," he added.

A U.S. spokesman in

Washington said a military aircraft would fly to India Saturday carrying water jugs, tents and 2.6 million square feet (250,000 square metres) of shelter material for the thousands of homeless.

More than 25,000 troops have been rushed in to help rescue efforts in the area around the towns of Khilari, near Latur, and Umbarga, some 450 kilometres east of Bombay.

The daily Ekmat, a Latur newspaper, put the death toll at 44,000, explaining that its figures were based on information collected from the quake-hit villages and the number of missing two days after the killer earthquake struck.

Police and rescue workers said so far they had collected around 12,000 corpses from under the rubble of thousands of destroyed houses. Relief workers said 73 villages had been affected, and it was impossible to know how many had died.

"It is difficult to distinguish between the dead and living at first sight," said one worker.

"They are all lying in the same state."

Hospitals in the region are overflowing, with patients being treated outside.

Bodies were being hurriedly cremated in a race to head off outbreaks of disease. On Saturday, bodies lying covered in white sheets in the open air began decomposing.

Several aftershocks added to residents' worries.

"People were really scared. To make matters worse, there was no electricity, during the night," Mr. Panchal said.

In Khilari, rescue workers found some survivors miraculously alive. The Indian Express newspaper reported that three children, including a 15-day old infant, were found alive in the debris of their homes.

All three children were unhurt, but their parents were believed to have been killed, the newspaper said.

Officials said Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would visit the quake-affected area Monday.

The subcontinent's worst



Army personnel search for earthquake survivors in the ruins of a collapsed stone hut in one of the worst hit villages in India (AFP photo)

earthquake this century was on May 31, 1935, when 50,000 people were killed in the Quetta area of what is now Pakistan. At least 10,700 were killed in the Nepal/Bihar border region on Jan. 15, 1934.

India plans to resettle the thousands of villagers made homeless by the earthquake, the chief minister of the Maharashtra said.

Sharad Pawar told reporters

it would cost around 2.5 billion rupees (\$80 million) to resettle survivors from the devastated villages.

"But the way the people of the world and India have reacted, I am confident that we will be able to face the situation and overcome it," he said.

Meanwhile, for the first time in its independent history, India will accept foreign aid to help the survivors of the earthquake, a government spokes-

man said Saturday.

He said India, which has made a point since independence from Britain in 1947 of relying on its own resources to cope with the natural disasters that regularly ravage it, had not and would not ask for help.

"But the government has indicated (to countries which have offered aid) that it will accept all offers of assistance," the spokesman told Reuters.

Fears of renewed war grow in Bosnia, Croatia

SARAJEVO (R) — International negotiators tried to work out deals on two fronts in former Yugoslavia Saturday — one among Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia and one to allow U.N. troops to remain in Croatia.

The U.N. pushed for agreement to renew the mandate of the 25,000 United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peacekeepers in Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has held up the agreement by threatening to demand the removal of U.N. forces from a rebel Serb enclave in his country unless UNPROFOR takes more aggressive action to restore his government's authority in it.

Bosnia's Muslims said they were ready to seek a negotiated settlement to the 18-month civil war despite the rejection of the latest peace plan by their parliament.

"We think the peace process is still open," Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic told Sarajevo Radio.

But Bosnian Serbs and Croats stuck to a hard line — either the Muslims accept the plan unconditionally or the 18-month civil war worsens.

The Bosnian parliament this week effectively rejected the peace package, dividing the country into three ethnic states, by making their acceptance conditional on the return of territory seized by force.

Mr. Silajdzic suggested that the territorial questions could be settled through international arbitration by "appointed world institutions," but did not elaborate.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said he also hoped to stay in the negotiations, although territorial concessions made to the Muslims as part of the latest Geneva agreement were already being withdrawn.

"I think our assembly will withdraw the concessions but we will stay in the conference," he told Reuters Television as the Bosnian Serb parliament started discussing its next move Saturday. "The (latest Geneva) package is very worthwhile."

European Community (EC) peace envoy Lord Owen has said that resuming the three-way talks was an option, but he saw no willingness yet to compromise.

As he spoke, U.N. officials said Bosnian Serbs had launched a campaign of rape, torture and beatings against Muslims and Croats in the Banja Luka region, apparently aimed

at driving them out of the area in northern Bosnia.

The U.N. Security Council Friday adopted a stopgap resolution extending until Tuesday, the UNPROFOR's expired mandate in former Yugoslavia.

In an attempt to meet Croatian objections, it agreed to warn Serb-led rump Yugoslavia of "serious consequences" if it continued to support rebel Serbs who have proclaimed their own Krajina Republic on captured Croatian territory.

U.N. diplomats said this had annoyed Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic and he had threatened to pull out of the Bosnia peace talks in which he has played a key role.

Mr. Tudjman wants UNPROFOR to disarm rebel Serbs holding the Krajina region of Croatia, but the U.N. says this exceeds its powers.

"The Serbs were supposed to turn in their weapons as part of a ceasefire agreement that ended Croatia's war for independence and installed a U.N. peacekeeping presence in Serb-held areas."

In the breakaway Muslim enclave around Bihać in northwestern Bosnia a local leader called on people and soldiers to rise in defence of the area against troops loyal to the Bosnian central government in Sarajevo.

Fikret Abdic, self-proclaimed president of the Bihać pocket, said there had been an "intensified campaign of military terror against the population of western Bosnia."

Bihać declared autonomy Monday and Bosnian troops moved in soon after. They fired into the ground in front of demonstrating civilians but no one was injured and no serious clashes have been reported.

U.N. observers reported limited fighting in Bosnia Saturday, but UNPROFOR spokesman Colonel Bill Aikman said fighting and attacks on UNPROFOR troops were causing "serious concern."

He told reporters in Sarajevo that a French soldier had been hit in the leg by a sniper near the French barracks in the Bosnian capital. A French armoured personnel carrier on Mount Igman overlooking the city was hit by a grenade and two soldiers inside suffered damaged eardrums.

Spanish troops near the disputed southwestern Bosnian town of Mostar were sniped at when they tried to retrieve a broken-down vehicle, he added.

Sri Lankan troops destroy rebel camp, 120 boats

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops destroyed a camp, pier and more than 120 guerrilla boats in their push into rebel-held territory in the northern Jaffna peninsula, a Defence Ministry statement said Saturday.

"Troops are in the process of consolidating the area captured. A well-fortified terrorist camp and the pier used by the Sea Tigers were destroyed," the statement said.

Details of rebel deaths were not known and there were no casualties to troops in Saturday's advance, it said.

Troops, pounded by mortar bombs, inched further into Tamil rebel territory in their thrust to destroy supply boats and landing points, military sources said Saturday.

Nearly 400 government soldiers, rebels and civilians have been killed since the government offensive began last Tuesday.

"We have destroyed several crossing points and boats. The job has been mostly done but we still have a little more left. We are starting off now," a

senior military officer in charge of the offensive said by telephone earlier Saturday.

"We took a severe beating yesterday and there was very heavy resistance. But things are much better now. Morale is high," the officer said, referring to Friday's fighting.

The Defence Ministry said Friday night troops had captured two major boat landings in the Kilali area used by the rebels to ferry supplies and men across the lagoon between the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula and the Sri Lankan mainland.

Reinforcements were sent to the battle front Friday as troops went into Kilali, backed by air force fighters, helicopter gunships, heavy artillery and naval support.

The officer said 114 soldiers had been killed in four days of fierce fighting as troops, estimated to number about 3,000, advanced 14 kilometres north of a base in Elephant Pass.

Earlier unofficial estimates had put the death toll at 150, about 230 rebels and 40 civilians have also died.

But as far as being the ideal first lady, Mrs. Clinton ranked behind Barbara Bush with 39 per cent believing George Bush's wife came closest to the ideal president's wife. Mrs. Clinton followed with 36 per cent. Nancy Reagan with 11 per cent and Rosalynn Carter with seven per cent.

On whether Mrs. Clinton was too influential as an activist first lady, 48 per cent said she exerted the right amount of influence, 41 per cent felt she was too influential, four per cent said her influence was too little and seven per cent had no opinion.

The poll of 751 adults taken between Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 had a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

Mrs. Clinton seen smarter than husband — poll

WASHINGTON (R) — Hillary Rodham Clinton is believed to be smarter than her husband, President Bill Clinton, a new national poll published Friday said.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll, taken during Mrs. Clinton's promotional campaign for national health care in Congress this week, found 40 per cent of those polled thought she was smarter than her husband while only 22 per cent felt he was smarter.

Seventeen per cent said they were equally intelligent, six per cent said neither was smarter and 15 per cent did not know.

Overall, 61 per cent gave her a favourable rating which was about the same rank as before her testimony on behalf of the national medical plan, which drew congressional raves.

Only 27 per cent viewed her unfavourably while 12 per cent had no opinion.

The poll found 47 per cent believed she was qualified to

be president against 44 per cent who didn't feel that way. But a majority, 56 per cent, did not want to see her run for the White House against 36 per cent who did and eight per cent who had no opinion.

But as far as being the ideal first lady, Mrs. Clinton ranked behind Barbara Bush with 39 per cent believing George Bush's wife came closest to the ideal president's wife. Mrs. Clinton followed with 36 per cent. Nancy Reagan with 11 per cent and Rosalynn Carter with seven per cent.

On whether Mrs. Clinton was too influential as an activist first lady, 48 per cent said she exerted the right amount of influence, 41 per cent felt she was too influential, four per cent said her influence was too little and seven per cent had no opinion.

The poll of 751 adults taken between Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 had a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

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3 bombs injure 4 in London

LONDON (AP) — Three explosions rocked northwest London early Saturday, panicking late-night pedestrians amid scenes of flames and flying glass, police and witnesses said.

Police said four people cut by flying shards of glass were ferried to the Royal Free Hospital nearby.

Chief Superintendent Tony Buchanan told reporters that police received a coded telephone warning six minutes before the three bombs exploded in the area of Finchley Road, a largely upper-middle-class residential district, about 12:25 a.m. (2325 GMT).

"As soon as officers arrived at the scene, they witnessed three explosions," said Mr. Buchanan, who noted that the blasts had "all the hallmarks of a terrorist attack."

A Scotland Yard spokesman, speaking in customary anonymity, said the "relatively small" bombs were left outside a Domino's Pizza parlor and a real-estate office. A nightclub nearby was evacuated after the blasts, he said.

The Metropolitan Police bomb squad later carried out a

controlled explosion on a suspect package left at another point of Finchley Road.

The explosions, which blew out windows for blocks, caught the remnants of late-night pub-goers as well as crowds of people heading home by subway.

Police sternly ordered people away from the scene and roped off an area a half-mile square. Officers were seen searching parked cars and garbage cans by flashlight.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but it appeared likely to have been the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Meanwhile, a suspected IRA car bomb blasted a Northern Ireland hotel as the guerrilla group's political wing called for a new and imaginative approach to bringing peace to the province.

The 200 lb (90 kg) bomb exploded at a hotel in Markethill in the south of the province Thursday night, causing extensive damage but no injuries in a continuing campaign to disrupt tourism in the province, police said Friday.

Georgian rebels seize Black Sea port

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Forces loyal to ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia swept into the Black Sea port of Poti Saturday after a lightning assault that the Defence Ministry said left many people dead.

The attack marked a resumption of open hostilities between Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men and government forces backing leader Eduard Shevardnadze after a temporary but unsuccessful alliance to stop Georgia's Abkhazia province falling to secessionists.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the "zviadist" forces overran Poti in western Georgia within a few hours, routing government troops who had only a tenuous grip on the port city.

"Poti has been overrun by Lott Kobaliya's troops," said the spokesman in the national capital Tbilisi, referring to Mr. Gamsakhurdia's chief commander. "There are dead and wounded."

The nationalist Gamsakhurdia, elected after Georgia gained independence from the Soviet Union, was chased from power in an armed rebellion in January 1992.

His opportunity for a comeback bid came with what proved to be a decisive Abkhazian secessionist offensive against the provincial capital of

Sukhumi launched on Sept. 15.

With his old enemy Shevardnadze booted up in Sukhumi, Mr. Gamsakhurdia returned from exile to rebuild his stronghold in western Georgia, an ethnically distinct region whose natives speak a separate dialect from those in Tbilisi in the east.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, son of a famous Georgian writer, was persecuted for his dissenting beliefs during Soviet power and on independence was elected president by a landslide.

Opponents who forced him from power accused him of pursuing dictatorial methods.

Since returning he has dwelt on Mr. Shevardnadze's failures in Abkhazia and the economy to underpin his bid to return to power.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia has always been bitterly anti-Russian while Mr. Shevardnadze has tried to cooperate with Moscow, a policy now in tatters after Georgia's defeat in Abkhazia.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's armed supporters already controlled large parts of western Georgia and had been tightening their stranglehold on Poti and on the port of Batumi farther west along the coast, for some time.

The seizure of Poti now gives Gamsakhurdia greater leverage over the Shevardnadze leadership since it is a

major delivery point for oil, staples such as grain, and international humanitarian aid for the whole country.

There was no immediate word from Mr. Shevardnadze, who toured western Georgia this week to review government forces there.

Irakli Batiasvili, head of Georgia's Internal Security Service, denounced the attack on Poti saying: "Greater treachery and perfidy does not exist. Poti is a point of great strategic importance and that is why they attacked there."

Russia, accused by Mr. Shevardnadze of playing a key role in Abkhazia by backing the secessionists, denied Friday it had had a hand in helping Mr. Gamsakhurdia to return from Grozny in neighbouring Chechnya.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as also calling on Georgia's authorities to do all in their power to protect Russians, particularly servicemen, who have been the object of individual attacks.

In the latest such incident a counsellor at the Russian embassy and his driver were beaten Friday night by four armed men in Tbilisi who attacked their official car, ITAR-TASS said.

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Russia, questioned on NATO, promotes CSCE

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Foreign Ministry has said it saw the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) as the best vehicle for improving security on the continent.

A ministry spokesman, answering a question at a news conference, was unable to comment on President Boris Yeltsin's warning to NATO members this week not to recruit new members from Eastern Europe.

He said: "It is the sovereign right of every state to ensure its security in any way, including through participation in military alliances."

The spokesman, Grigory Karasin, said Russia understood that NATO (North

Atlantic Treaty alliance), the cold war bulwark against communism, needed to change to take into account the changing face of Europe.

But Moscow was opposed to any "premature" changes and was prepared to take part in discussions on the future of the Western alliance and on the whole question of European security.

"The security of Europe must be indivisible," he said.

"We are convinced that it is necessary to boost the anti-crisis peacekeeping potential on the scale of the whole continent, in particular making more active use of the potential and possibilities of the CSCE," he said.

The CSCE, set up in 1975 to

help bridge the East-West divide, groups 53 nations from Europe, North America and the former Soviet republics.

Mr. Yeltsin's warning, in a letter to Western governments this week, caused dismay and anger among former members of the Kremlin's rival grouping, the Warsaw Pact, which had been hoping to join NATO.

The Czech government Friday shrugged off President Yeltsin's warning and made clear its ambitions to join the Western alliance were unaffected.

The Czech Republic has said that it aims to join NATO as part of efforts to integrate in West European economic and security organisations.

Khmer Rouge recognises king, constitution

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian leaders Saturday laid down conditions for allowing the Khmer Rouge to hold talks on their future under the new government, as faction leader Kieu Samphan left here calling preliminary discussions with the king a "success."

Kieu Samphan spent 24 hours in the Cambodian capital in which he declared he recognised the new constitution and the monarchy, and offered to integrate his guerrilla forces into the national army but not to lay down their weapons.

He did not go so far as to recognise the government headed by Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

King Norodom Sihanouk reportedly told him that his request to have an advisory role in the government would have to be discussed at the roundtable talks, scheduled for November.

"But just in case Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh could not accept to have the roundtable, the king will try to bridge the gap and will make a shuttle diplomacy and have individual meetings," Khmer Rouge spokesman Kor Bunheng said.

In a letter to Kieu Samphan, the co-premiers outlined

conditions under which the roundtable could be held.

The radical guerrillas must recognise the new government as well as its constitution, acknowledge that they are a guerrilla faction holding discussions with a full-fledged government, and stop denouncing the new government on their clandestine radio, the letter said.

"We consider the roundtable discussions very important, but before having such discussions, we consider that you must do these things," it said.

The co-premiers are currently in New York attending the United Nations General Assembly, but sent the letter Friday.

"We believe your excellency will not raise up again the issue of Vietnamese puppets... and will stop any inflammatory, separatist and hostile broadcasts opposed to the spirit of national reconciliation and unity because our beloved motherland has only one legal government and monarch," the letter said.

During the meeting between Kieu Samphan and King Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge nominal leader told the king that the Khmer Rouge recognise the new constitution and the monarchy that it set up.

Kieu Samphan told reporters at the airport before boarding a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok that the talks were a "success."

But a faction statement said his positions were non-negotiable.

For the November talks "Kieu Samphan said that the (faction) would not change from its two-point proposal already submitted to His Majesty's consideration: The formation of a national army including the NADK, (and) the (faction) representatives will have an advisory role," it said.

The official title of the guerrillas is the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

"The (faction) will not ask for more and will not seek governmental posts," the Khmer Rouge statement said.

The Khmer Rouge also reiterated their support for a ceasefire in a second statement.

"The DKP (Democratic Kampuchea Party, or Khmer Rouge) wants to have a real ceasefire," the statement said. "To achieve it, there should be a committee to discuss detailed plans of the ceasefire and the principles of its control and verification."

Would-be robbers pick on wrong foreign tourist

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The plague of crime against foreign tourists in Florida took a twist when two would-be robbers encountered an amateur heavyweight boxer called "Chubby" by his mates back in Wales. Andrew Griffiths, a professional bodyguard, told police he knocked one man unconscious and the other one groggy before driving away from the robbery attempt in front of an Orlando store. "I'm certain one of them will require serious medical attention," said Griffiths, 28.

"Apparently, he got himself out of trouble," Police Sgt. Mike Holloway said Friday. Florida's tourist industry has taken a hit from a rash of attacks on foreign visitors. Ten foreigners have been killed in the past year. Mr. Griffiths had just left a bank and stopped at a store to buy cigarettes when two men asked him for a light and then demanded his money. The boxer said he came up fighting, popping one man in the face and delivering a kick and karate chop to the other. The visitor then jumped into his car and returned to his hotel. He didn't file a report with police until later in the day. Mr. Griffiths told reporters his family arrived in Florida for a two-week vacation on Sept. 24 and realised their rental car and hotel vouchers were worthless because their tour company had gone out of business. But the family of five obtained a rental car, checked into another hotel and began visiting the theme parks. They plan to go to Miami over the weekend. "I'd heard about the violence here, but I thought, 'what were the chances?'" Mr. Griffiths said. "At this point, I'm thinking, 'what more can go wrong?'"

S. African edition of Hustler banned

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The South African edition of the U.S. gaffe magazine Hustler has been hit with a court interdict for the third time in as many months, this time for offering money to local TV personalities to pose in the nude, press reports said. The magazine's first two issues had also been banned for obscenity, although the local edition is much tamer than the one that appears in the United States. In its latest issue, Hustler invited six popular woman television personalities to pose naked, offering them each 100,000 rand (\$29,400) to bare breasts and 200,000 rand (\$58,800) to expose their genitals. The court, acting on a complaint from the women, ruled that the offer was "a gross invasion of (their) dignity" and rejected Hustler editor Charl Pretorius's claim that the offer was made in a "light-hearted" vein. The court asked the offending pages to be removed from the magazine, which it described as "coarse and obscene in nature... licentious, containing nothing of literary value and aiming solely to sexually titillate its readers," the Citizen newspaper, reported.

Strays to be pampered at \$2 million shelter

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (AP) — A dog's life will be pretty luxurious for strays living in the city's new \$2.3 million animal shelter. The shelter includes skylights, heated floors, paneled walls, showers, private water lines for each cage and a get-acquainted park. The \$329,000 yearly operating cost — \$129,000 more than the city spends on a senior citizens community centre — is drawing fire. "This is not an animal shelter. This is a very palatial, heated facility with fancy things it doesn't need," said Gary Manley, who ran unsuccessfully for city council last year. Councilwoman Sharon Cody said the shelter should lead to more pet adoptions, helping save some of the 200-300 dogs and cats put to sleep each year in Mission Viejo. "We have to get people over that stereotypical image of the dog pound," Ms. Cody said. "I wanted a parklike setting because I thought it would be a place that families would come and sit and visit."

Appetite proves fatal for Biosphere pigs

ATLANTA (AP) — A family of pigs living in Biosphere 2 fell victim to their own large appetites and became pork roast. The two pigs — which were from Georgia — and the seven piglets they had while in the Biosphere threw out to be too hard to feed.

Italian ace leads Cyprus Rally

NICOSIA (AP)—Italian driver Alessandro Fiorio punched through the first stage of the gruelling Rothmans Cyprus Motor Rally Friday to secure a 59-second lead on the first day of the event, ranked among the top 10 in Europe.

Fiorio, last year's winner, is driving a Lancia Delta Integrale with Vittorio Brambilla as his co-driver.

Second, behind the Italian team at the end of the first stage, was Antonis Jeropoulos, the 1991 champion, in a Mits-

bishi VR4, followed by Bagheera of Lebanon in Lancia Delta Integrale.

Before all the cars were off the ramp outside the Nicosia Museum two British teams of the initial 92 entries from 11 countries dropped out.

Jimmy McRae's Ford Saphire Cosworth caught fire, but he and co-driver Ian Grindrod bailed out unhurt. Alistair McRae and co-driver David Senior decided not to take any risk, and dropped out when they found oil from the gearbox began leaking onto

the hot exhaust of their Subaru Legacy.

Two other British teams of the original six failed to make it through the first stage and a team from Jordan went out with a broken gearbox.

That left 87 cars in the race that will cover 973 kilometres (978 miles) in four legs. The route includes 368 kilometres (230 miles) in 22 special stages on gravel-covered narrow, twisting mountain roads designed to test both drivers and vehicles.

JBF International Basketball Tournament Bulgaria's Himik defeat Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bulgaria's Himik Club Saturday scored their third straight win by overcoming Jordan's national team 112-101 on the fourth day of the International Basketball Tournament organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The atmosphere at the Sports Palace was that of disappointment, to say the least, as players, officials and fans of the Kingdom's team, who had beaten Iraqi champions Al Naft 83-76 Friday after losing to Lebanon's Al Hikmah 85-74 on the opening day, had voiced hope that the team would overcome its shortcomings and fight for an advanced standing in the championship.

However that was not the case. The Bulgarian team's agility was no match, even to the most seasoned players of the Jordanian team, who were given a rest in the second half of the match.

Himik now lead the standings in the championship, which comes amid the Jordanian team's preparations for the Asian Basketball Championship, due to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia Nov. 12-20.

In an earlier match Saturday Iraq's Al Talaba scored a last-minute 77-77 win over Lebanon's Al Hikmah.

Jordan's match against Himik, attended by a sparse crowd of around 300 fans, was close at the beginning. Jordan led 7-2 and scoring remained close before both teams tied at 21-21. Himik began to expand their lead at 30-25. The gap was narrowed to 41-39 but Himik successfully widened their lead, easily penetrating Jordan's defence to widen the gap to 52-41. Hilal Barakat scored for Jordan as the team lacked



Jordan's national team

offensive rebounding. Himik won the first half 58-47.

Jordan's Coach Alexander Sasha substituted the basic line-up to include younger, faster players like Mohammad Al Shamali and Ziyad Nabulsi. The gap was narrowed to 69-62, but after two successive three-pointers Himik again led 76-62 and 81-67.

As the well-known Murad and Hilal Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Marwan Ma'touq and Youssef Zaghloni sat out, Samir Marqus joined the relatively less-experienced Muntaser Abutayeb, Jihad Saliba, Marwan Al Saeedi,

Shamali and Nabulsi.

Himik continued to score as the Jordanian team seemed to lose their fighting spirit and surrendered to defeat. The visiting team led 91-74 and 100-78 before Abutayeb and Shamali put up a good effort trying to minimise the difference to 107-92. Saeedi rebounded and Shamali scored to lessen the gap as Himik clinched the win 112-101.

Moscow's CSKA were to meet Iraq's Al Naft in Saturday's last match.

Al Hikmah play Himik and Al Naft meet Al Talaba Sunday.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	PF	SA	Pts.
Himik	3	3	—	319	289	6
CSKA	2	2	—	202	122	4
Hikmah	3	1	2	234	242	4
Jordan	3	1	2	258	273	4
Talaba	3	1	2	229	303	4
Naft	2	—	2	166	176	2

Short seeks first victory in chess match

LONDON (R)—Briton Nigel Short will use the advantage of the white pieces and first move to try to breach the defences of world chess champion Garry Kasparov in the 12th game of their title match Saturday.

Kasparov leads the 24-game series 8-3 with five wins and six draws, and needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the crown. Outright victory means a 5/8 share

of the £1.7 million (\$2.5 million) purse from the Times of London newspaper.

There is an added psychological incentive for Short to win as the first half of the series comes to a close, with Kasparov still not having tasted defeat.

But Short has enjoyed his best week so far, scoring two draws from two games, and

having generated chances to win playing both with white and black.

Short's last game with the advantage of the first move led to his nearest miss so far, with Kasparov surviving a completely lost position after Short lost concentration in time trouble, having only seconds per move to avoid a loss by forfeit.

Kasparov, 30, whose play has become punctuated with grave oversights, confirmed reports that the strain of constant complicated battles had left him fatigued, but felt that Short was showing signs of weariness as well.

Short, 28, insists he is still in good form, and appeared to be cheerful and energetic after Thursday's game.

Many grandmasters were mystified about Kasparov's appearance after the 11th game. Normally fit and energetic, Kasparov was listless and subdued, sitting slumped in his chair, fatigue showing in his swollen eyes.

Experts speculate Kasparov may adopt a more conservative approach when defending the black pieces in the next game.

Kasparov's provocative defensive strategy has led to complex games with Short consistently creating winning chances.

Although Kasparov has scored well with this risky strategy — four draws and one win — many of his positions have been catastrophic, and experts feel he could be pushing his luck with further sharp play.



France's David Douillet reacts after defeating David Khakhaleichvili of Georgia in the World Judo Championships (AFP photo)

World Judo Championships Douillet wins world title

HAMILTON (R)—Frenchman David Douillet upset Olympic champion David Khakhaleichvili to win the over-95 kilogramme title at the World Judo Championships Thursday.

Douillet hurled the powerful Georgian to the mat to win the seventh world judo title in French history and the nation's first ever in the heavyweight division.

Khakhaleichvili, who defeated the 24-year-old Frenchman in the European Championships final in Athens in May, tried to block an attack from the Frenchman and then counter him.

But Douillet continued the Uchimate (inner thigh throw) to score a Wazari (decisive knockdown).

"The opening was there and I seized it. It makes all the training worthwhile. I just hope my two children will be watching it on television," Douillet said.

On a day when the Japanese, the inventors of the sport, failed to get any medal in either of the men's two

categories, Antal Kovacs of Hungary took the under-95 kg title to add to the Olympic title he won in Barcelona.

Kovacs fought superbly all day with his sudden leg-grabs and, in the final, cleanly threw Brazil's Aureli Miguel, the 1988 Olympic champion, for Ippon (full point).

Kovacs had earlier beaten Stephane Traineau of France, the 1991 world champion.

Seventeen-year-old Anno Noriko just failed to bring Japan their first women's world judo gold in nine years, succumbing to Johanna Hagn of Germany in the final of the women's over-72 kg category.

Anno fought aggressively but Hagn won with a desperate manoeuvre 12 seconds from the end for a Koka which denied the Japanese their first women's gold since Kaori Yamaguchi took the 52-kg title in 1984.

China's Chun Hui Leng took the gold in the women's under-72 kg class, with a last-second throw on Kate Howey of Britain.

Board game rights offered to UNICEF

BEIRUT (AFP)—The Lebanese creator of a Monopoly-style board game based on civil war has offered the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) the international rights to his invention in which militiamen fight and get rich illegally.

Nagi Tuani told AFP his board game, called Civil War, had "educational value" which can show children that civil war only serves to help leaders "fill their pockets."

"Knowing this, the young will refuse to fight in the future," Tuani said.

"The game will help fight wars by showing what wars are really all about. It's about prevention, like inoculations," Tuani said.

"I got the idea to offer UNICEF the rights to the game after seeing pictures of children in Somalia and in the former Yugoslavia," he said.

Tuani has offered UNICEF the exclusive right to distribute and sell the game worldwide "and in all languages." He said he was awaiting a reply.

Around 1,500 English and French copies of his board game, a cynical version of the world-famous Monopoly, have sold in Lebanon alone.

Four people, representing four militias, can play the game. The aim is to get rich by

any method in order to set up military units that will in turn replace the regular army.

The methods offered by Civil War include the smuggling of cigarettes and alcohol, the imposition of illegal taxes and ransom collected from the abduction of foreign hostages — practices widely used by secular and religious militias during Lebanon's civil war.

"We have known everything here. If only it could serve as a lesson to the children of other countries," Tuani said.

Relief for Europe's soccer elite

GENEVA (AFP)—The three favourites for the European Champions Cup — AC Milan, Barcelona and Manchester United — were pitted against weak opponents in the second round draw made here Friday.

Milan travel to Copenhagen. Johan Cruyff's Spaniards host FK Austria and even Manchester United cannot have too many complaints about facing the Turks of Galatasaray.

However, Milan will have to improve on a dismal performance against Swiss minnows Aarau last month, and their 1-0 win on aggregate probably will not have the Dances quaking in their boots.

Barcelona need to avoid the sort of blunder which saw them go down 3-1 to Dynamo Kiev, but their dazzling attacking football of the second leg is fairer assessment of such a talented side.

Certainly, they will not be expected to repeat last season's shock exit in the second round at the hands of CSKA Moscow.

Man United face a club who reached the quarter-finals in 1969-70, but didn't exactly destroy Cork City in the first round.

Alex Ferguson will nevertheless need to take a decisive lead with him from Old Trafford to the second leg, for as the English national squad have discovered, winning in Turkey is no easy feat.

Monaco, who are replacing banned Cup holders Olympique Marseille, take on Steaua Bucharest.

"It should be fairly even," said Monaco coach Arsene

Wenger. "Even though things look a little more difficult because we are at home first."

"We'll go and see the Romanians in action this weekend, but they are technically a good side with players who are good at short passes."

Werder Bremen will be looking to show Glasgow Rangers where they went wrong against Levski Sofia. The hardest game is likely to be Holland's Feyenoord against FC Porto. The Dutchmen got a tougher draw than their compatriots in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Ajax Amsterdam drew Turkish side Besiktas, while holders Parma can consider themselves highly fortunate to be at home to Israel's Maccabi Haifa.

Arsenal can be satisfied with a Highbury first leg against Standard Liege, even though the Belgians hammered Cardiff city 8-3 in the first round.

Aberdeen will not be celebrating their trip to Torino, but Paris St Germain were clearly delighted not have drawn the Scottish menace.

PSG President Michel Denisot said: "Universitaire Craiova is a fair draw for us, we were really worried about getting Arsenal or Aberdeen. That said, we'll have to be careful, especially in the second leg in Romania."

Real Madrid may not feel the same way about the mountain men from Tyrol Innsbruck, whose main aim will be to limit the damage.

However, the lucky clubs should spare a thought for the

English sides who have made such a bright start in the UEFA Cup.

Norwich City have drawn Bayern Munich and Aston Villa face the revelation of the Spanish League for the past two seasons, Deportivo La Coruna.

Bavaria, three-times European Cup winners, crushed Dutch side Twente Enschede 7-3 on aggregate (4-3 away, 3-0 at home) in the first round.

"They don't come much bigger than Bayern," said Norwich manager Mike Walker. "Their visit will capture the fans' imagination."

Bavaria have some world-class players and a great reputation. This really brings it home to us that we are in Europe. You've got to meet these sort of teams at some stage if you want to do anything in the competition."

Holders Juventus face Kongsvinger of Norway, while Inter Milan should have the beating of Cypriots Apollon Limassol.

Celtic start the second round at home to Sporting Lisbon, lining up a nostalgic return for ex-England Manager Bobby Robson, now Sporting's coach, to British football.

The two clubs met at the same stage of the same competition 10 years ago. Celtic lost 2-0 in Lisbon but won 5-4 at Parkhead.

Paul Gascoigne's Lazio also face a Bouviera of Portugal.

The first legs of each competition are scheduled for October 20 and the second legs November 3.

Lewis' power sinks Bruno

CARDIFF (AFP)—Lennox Lewis admitted Saturday that Frank Bruno had temporarily threatened his ambition of becoming the boxer of the 1990s during their thrilling bout here.

But after stopping Bruno in the seventh round to keep his World Boxing Council heavyweight title, Lewis announced that the next stage of his dream will be against World Boxing Organisation champion Tommy Morrison in Las Vegas next March 5.

A win then would mean a clash with Riddick Bowe to see who is undisputed world champion would be inevitable. But he has some doubts to clear up.

Lewis was behind on points when Britain's fight of the decade was settled in front of 30,000 people at Cardiff Arms Park.

Bruno fought like a tiger during the early rounds of his third attempt to get a world title. But the new leader of the pack proved 32-year-old Bruno to be long in the tooth.

Once jolted into action, Lewis made his youthful power triumph, by the seventh round, Bruno could hardly see and the referee had to step in to stop a slaughter.

The popular folk hero is now contemplating his future, but he earned his tribute from Lewis.

"Bruno was a lot tougher than I expected. He did his homework," said the champion who has now won 20 of his 24 fights inside the limit.

"It took me a while to get started. I was cold and he was warmer. But I knew as the

fight went on he would slow down. I knew my speed would tell in the end."

Lewis is so confident of his ability that he even wants to take on Mike Tyson, the fallen champion now serving a rape jail term in America.

"If Tyson is freed in reasonable time, I'll stay to fight him. I don't want to leave any doubts about who was the best fighter of the 90s, especially in my own mind," he said.

Bruno, who was stopped by Tim Witherpoon in 1986 in 1989, was also magnanimous in defeat.

"I am not going to make excuses," he said. "He beat me like a man. Fair and square." The British veteran, who earned \$1.5 million, added that he will decide his future with his family and trainer George

Francis and promoter Mickey Duff.

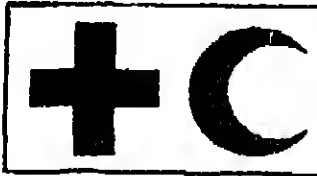
"I'm not too sure about my future," he said. Many observers believe he will hang up his gloves in a few months. But Bruno will have got on out with a bang against an opponent who pursued three times as much for the fight.

He troubled Lewis in the first round, dazed him in the second with a right hook and forced the champion to weather a major storm in the third round with another big overhand right.

Lewis staggered back to the ropes. He had to hang on grimly to survive the round and was in trouble again in the fifth. But this time replied with a sharp uppercut of his own in the dying seconds of the round.

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T O D A Y	<p>CONCORD Concord Cinema "1" Faten Hamameh — in Land of Dreams Shows at 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>Concord "2" Jim Marshall — in The Boxer Gladiator Shows at 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15 and 10:15 p.m.</p>	<p>PLAZA Shanhan in: The greatest musical film "Crystal" Shows at 12:30, 3:00, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA Robert Redford Demi Moore — in INDECENT PROPOSAL A special show for children at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays PROBLEM CHILD 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Nabli Al Mashini Theatre presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer, Fued Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>AHLAN THEATRE The political comedy WFLCOME ARAB SUMMIT Daily 6:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday</p>
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U.N., Iraq begin talks on long-term monitoring

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq and the United Nations Saturday began talks on the long-term monitoring of Baghdad's weapons arsenal; which the official press here hoped would lead to the lifting of a three-year U.N. embargo.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission for Disarming Iraq (UNCOM) met Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and other senior officials to discuss long-term arms controls.

"The session lasted an hour and the two parties will meet a second time Saturday night," a U.N. spokesman here told AFP.

Another senior weapons expert, Maurizio Zifferero of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also took part in the negotiations led by Mr. Ekeus, he said.

On arrival Friday, Mr. Ekeus said he hoped to establish a long-term monitoring system for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction but that he expected the talks to be "complex."

Mr. Ekeus, a Swede who is accompanied by two U.N. colleagues to resume negotiations which began in July in New York, voiced hope his mission would be successful.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya on Saturday said that the U.N.-Iraq negotiations were "important and decisive."

The daily said the talks should lead to "the implementation of Article 22 of U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which calls for the lifting of the embargo" imposed following Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Al Jumhuriya urged Mr. Ekeus to take into consideration "the suffering of the Iraqi people and the serious (economic) consequences" of the embargo.

The daily said that the sanctions had adversely affected 20 million Iraqis, but according to the latest official census, the Iraqi population stands at 18 million.

Al Jumhuriya said Iraq was serious about resolving the issue once and for all.

"The current round of talks is decisive and important," it said.

"It has been agreed... that it will end with a declaration on closing the file of banned weapons for good."

A team of more than 50 U.N. inspectors is in Iraq for what is described as its most comprehensive effort yet to reveal the remaining secrets of Iraq's weapons programmes.

The U.N. demands that Iraq provide a full list of its former arms suppliers and accounts of its past weapons programmes.

Iraq has promised to do so but demands in return a pledge from the Security Council to consider lifting the sanctions.

"This is what we hope from Mr. Ekeus, who is quite knowledgeable about the human suffering of the Iraqi people," Al Jumhuriya said.

Mr. Ekeus has promised to recommend that the council lifts the embargo on Iraqi oil exports once his commission certifies Baghdad has honoured its arms-controls commitments under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

The U.N. expects "satisfactory" answers to questions it presented to the Iraqis during an inconclusive round of arms talks held in New York last month.

Iraq rejected a joint statement by the United States, Britain, France and Russia handed to its U.N. envoy last week in which the four countries linked any easing of sanctions to Baghdad's honouring all Gulf war-related U.N. resolutions.

Al Jumhuriya said Iraq was aware of such "procrastination" but it was determined this time "not to give the enemies the chance to create problems and fabricate crises with the aim of continuing the sanctions."

Baghdad wants its compliance with the long-term disarmament programme tied to the lifting of the embargo but Mr. Ekeus said on Thursday "no such link could be accepted."

Resolution 687 calls for the lifting of the sanctions on oil exports once Iraq complies with all U.N. demands on disarmament.

The Security Council recently decided to renew the sanctions against Iraq, arguing that Baghdad had not yet met its conditions.

Al Jumhuriya accused four of the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, France and Russia — of "seeking to make the unjust embargo last" adding that the decisions were "biased."

A source close to the United Nations told AFP Friday that the Iraq-U.N. talks could help narrow differences between the two parties but that the "gap is still wide," namely over the lifting of the sanctions.

The IAEA meanwhile voted overwhelmingly Friday in Vienna to demand that Iraq release the names of foreign countries that supplied its nuclear weapons programme.

Baghdad has consistently resisted U.N. attempts to discover which firms helped it develop a nuclear weapons programme, which was dismantled by U.N. experts in the wake of Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war.

The motion called on Iraq to submit to continuous monitoring of its water ways, as testing can reveal the existence of clandestine nuclear operations.



BRITISH SUPPORT: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shakes hands with British Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, Douglas Hogg in his office in Tunis Friday. Mr. Hogg met with Mr. Arafat on the last day of his official three-day visit to Tunis (AFP photo)

Majid Khalifeh quits race; more IAF aspirants expected to follow

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The withdrawal of Majid Khalifeh, a prominent Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate in the Nov. 8 national elections, may be the first in similar moves by several of the declared 37 IAF candidates, sources told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Dr. Khalifeh, a former deputy from Amman's First District who served as minister of justice for six months in 1991, announced Saturday that he was withdrawing his candidacy in attempt to ease competition among Islamist candidates vying for the same seats.

"He is the first of, hopefully, about five more who should be withdrawing to ease the competition among IAF candidates in the one district," said a source close to the IAF.

"It is a commendable move and we hope it will encourage others to follow suit," an IAF source told the Jordan Times.

Many IAF members believe the front exaggerated the number of its candidates for the November elections because the leadership of the front was not "decisive in limiting the number of candidates."

Although not officially confirmed by the IAF, other sources indicated that the front may be trying to decrease the number of its candidates by asking them to withdraw their nominations.

"I think that at least 10 should be leaving the race but I doubt that more than five



Dr. Majid Khalifeh

would do it," the IAF source said.

The withdrawal of Dr. Khalifeh was seen as particularly significant since he is the son of Muslim Brotherhood spiritual leader Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh. The movement is the backbone of the IAF, which also includes independent Islamists.

ELECTIONS 1993

Despite the significance of Dr. Khalifeh's step, some close observers of the IAF believe that it may not convince some candidates who believe that their own credibility and political weight will carry them to Parliament without the front's endorsement.

The IAF, according to sources, has already sent out instructions to its political base in several districts to ignore the candidacy of persons who were not officially

named by the front.

The front, which is the largest and most organised amongst all political groups in the country, hopes that this move would deter some IAF members who were disappointed over being left out of the original list or those who are now being asked to step aside for others in the same district.

In a statement announcing his decision to withdraw, Dr. Khalifeh indicated that he was against the holding of elections on time in view of developments on the Palestinian scene and their impact on voters in the Kingdom.

The IAF was apparently divided over the issue of delaying the elections or holding them on time after his Majesty King Hussein indicated two weeks ago that he was seriously considering a postponement of the polls.

"As a result of the swift developments and political events, I had expressed my view that it is best to delay the elections for a short while until the picture became clearer," Dr. Khalifeh said in the statement.

But he also hinted that his decision was equally affected by the large number of candidates in the same constituency "even among members of the same family."

"I was pained to see the race towards nomination without giving adequate attention to who is more qualified and able to receive the support of voters, which can only indicate that personal interest overrides public welfare," he added in the brief statement.

Meeting on Lockerbie affair set at U.N. for Monday

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Representatives of Britain, France and the United States are to meet with the U.N. secretary-general here Monday to discuss the Lockerbie affair, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday.

The meeting with Boutros Ghali, at the request of the three countries, is set for noon (1600 GMT) Monday, Dr. Ghali's spokesman Joe Sills said.

The three countries had tabled a resolution to the U.N. Security Council Friday calling for tighter sanctions against Tripoli because of its refusal to hand over two of its nationals accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 killing 270 people.

France also wants to question at least two Libyans in connection with the blowing up of a French UTA airliner over Niger the following year, in which 170 people died.

Libya delivered a letter Friday to Dr. Ghali on the issue, but it contained no new elements and did not resolve the problem, Mr. Sills said.

The three countries had indicated that they would not be pressing immediately for the new sanctions resolution to be adopted, in the hope that Libya would respond.

Foreign Minister Omar Al Muotasser said Friday that his government would now be willing to allow the two sought by the French to go to Paris, something it had hitherto refused.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe immediately responded that what was needed now was action, not words, and nothing less than a written guarantee to hand over the Lockerbie and UTA suspects would do (see page 2).

Britain and the United States had given a similar response to a Libyan offer earlier in the week to allow the Lockerbie suspects to go to Scotland to face trial.

The draft resolution officially introduced Friday calls for a freeze on Libyan assets abroad, and a ban on exporting certain oil-industry equipment to Tripoli.

There was no call for it to be immediately discussed or voted on, but all three countries made it clear that they would go ahead with it if no satisfactory response were forthcoming from Libya.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, also in New York attending the U.N. General Assembly, said Friday: "We have tabled the resolution today, that is pressure."

Prosecution concludes assassination plot case

By Sana Atyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The State Security Court prosecution concluded its case Saturday against 10 men accused of conspiring to kill his Majesty King Hussein. The final piece of evidence the prosecution submitted was documents to which the defence objected, saying they were not included in the indictment.

Some of the documents were formal communications between government departments with which prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi sought to establish that all legal procedures were followed in the arrest, detention and interrogation of the defendants.

Defence lawyers argued that they had not been provided with the documents and moved that the court should not accept them as evidence.

The court took a one-hour recess to allow the defence to look at copies of the documents before ruling to enter them as evidence.

The defence also refused to allow the defendants to testify in court and demanded "enough time" to prepare for the defence case. Lawyers jumped to their feet in objection when Presiding Judge Colonel Hafez Amin asked the first defendant to stand up to testify.

In a 10-minute bargaining with the defence, Col. Amin allowed eight days for the defence to prepare its case. The defence asked for a three-week delay, while the court insisted it could not afford more than one week.

"All we are asking is one week for every month the prosecutor had to prepare his case," defence attorney Jawad Younis told the court. "That would be six weeks, but all we want is half of that time."

Col. Amin, however, insisted that the defence had already had time to prepare its case and said he was delaying other cases because of the assassination plot trial.

Ten defendants, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are charged with plotting to kill the King at a graduation ceremony at Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, on June 26, and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state. They are also accused of attempting to change the Constitution through "illegal and violent" means and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

The eight defendants in court — five of whom are students at Muta University, one former student and a member of the Royal Escort Unit and two alleged members of the ILP — have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The women relatives of defendants were prevented from attending the trial for the third week and they sat quietly under a large tree outside the courthouse until the session ended. Court sources said they would not be allowed to attend the hearings because of their "outbursts" inside the courtroom in the first two weeks of the trial, which began Sept. 9.

The lawyers objected to the court decision saying the move "affected the rights of the defence in a trial that is supposed to be public."

The women later told the Jordan Times that they had kept quiet on Saturday, hoping to be allowed entry, but vowed they would not be so calm when the trial resumes on Oct. 10. Last week they carried placards and protested against their entry ban, and often engaged the policemen in verbal clashes outside.

Al Ra'i reporter Ahmad Kreishan, who has been covering security cases for many years, was also banned from attending Saturday's session for unknown reasons.

Last week, Al Ahali weekly reporter Ramadan Rawashdeh was arrested but was released on bail on Thursday and his case was referred to the civil court. He, as well as his chief editor Jamil Nimri, face

charges of "slandering" the State Security Court and publishing the minutes of the hearings which the court had ordered journalists not to publish.

Inside the courtroom, defence lawyers protested against what they described as "the continued violation of the defence rights." They said the court's insistence on special permits for attending the hearings contradicted the "constitutionality of a public hearing."

Speaking on behalf of the defence team, Mr. Younis also maintained that the "certain apparatus continues to harass the defendants by keeping them in solitary confinement."

He added that his clients were still "suffering from fear" from the alleged torture they underwent during their detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID).

A doctor visited some of the defendants last Sunday to check for signs of torture upon the request of the defence. But lawyers complained to journalists that the court had refused to allow "neutral" doctors they had proposed from the University of Jordan, and that they have not seen the doctors' report.

Court sources said that they had "hand delivered" a request to the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services as soon as the lawyers submitted official requests for the medical tests "to ensure a speedy measure."

The lawyers claimed that "in addition to a doctor who supervised the torture at the GID, a doctor in the (Zarqa military) prison had supervised the treatment of the defendants by giving them daily baths in salt and water to alleviate any signs of torture they suffered before they were transferred from the GID to the prison in August."

Court sources denied the defence allegations, calling them "fantastic fabrications."

The court was adjourned until Oct. 10 when the defence will present its case.

Lifting boycott is suicide — Crown Prince

(Continued from page 1)

weapons since Gulf war and here we are talking about a commitment of less than \$2 billion on peace," he said.

To this end, Prince Hassan said there must be a greater coordination of aid to the region, and called for an international meeting of non-

governmental organisations.

"We simply can't continue to see piecemeal handouts and amateurish approaches, altruistic though they may be, amounting to anything in terms of dealing with the global problem of suffering," he said.

Echoing comments made by Middle East peace negotiators, Prince Hassan said there must

be tangible change in the region before there is peace — and before the economic boycott of Israel can be lifted.

"I can't accept that overnight the region is going to be normalising, pacified, lobotomised in the name of peace," he said. "It just doesn't happen like that."

What is needed now is an

Movement towards addressing concerns

(Continued from page 1)

described Mr. Clinton's comments as "highly positive."

"We hope that contacts will continue with the U.S. to reduce the debt due to the U.S. and other nations," Dr. Muasher told Jordan Television.

Diplomatic sources noted that any American offer of debt relief to Jordan will also strengthen Jordan's stand in appealing for debt relief to European countries, which have been arguing that if Washington was not ready to write off the Kingdom's debts, then it also should not pressure them into doing so.

Prince Hassan Saturday met with World Bank President Carlo Koch-Weser and discussed with him Jordan's overall economic situation and particularly its foreign debt.

It was agreed at the meeting, attended by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Finance Minister Sami Gammo, that a committee of prominent international experts will be set up to study Jordan's economic situation and to draw up appropriate recommendations to reflect the Kingdom's needs and identity projects that could be implemented, Jordan Television reported.

"Discussions also covered Jordan's foreign debt in light of

the recent developments in the region in a manner that would enable the Kingdom to proceed with its economic development plans aimed at reducing the deficit in the fiscal budget and the country's balance of trade and to help increase investment opportunities and deal with issues such as poverty and unemployment," the television said.

In essence, the proposal to set up a committee to study Jordan's economy appeared to be the fulfilment of a Jordanian quest to have the World Bank study the overall regional economic impact, positive and negative, of the Palestinian autonomy plan in the occupied territories which are tied to the Israeli economy.

Dr. Muasher said the idea of setting up a Jordanian-Israeli-American economic working group announced Friday was not a Jordanian idea, but the Kingdom accepted it since it was supported by Washington.

Analysts said the group could serve as a "window" for Jordan into the Palestinian economy, particularly that the Americans were involved in the panel.

"Jordan will be playing a key role in rebuilding the occupied territories," said a veteran analyst. "That role will be within the international development programme for the

Palestinians."

"It will involve Jordanian supervision of monetary institutions in the occupied territories, licensing of commercial banks and overseeing implementation of projects in addition to offering whatever goods and material it can in the physical rebuilding process."

"But all indications are that Jordan could also hope for direct foreign assistance to its own economy," said the analyst.

Prince Hassan, in a press conference after Saturday's meeting at the World Bank, said he was not visiting Washington to sign any agreement or hold negotiations.

He said he had reiterated Jordan's commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East addressing all dimensions and tracks of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Crown Prince said international funding to develop the Middle East should not be focused on infrastructure and services, but on developing human resources.

Prince Hassan delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Clinton at Friday's meeting at the White House. The message was later joined by Mr. Peres.

acute focus on improving the lives of the Palestinians as they move towards self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As set out in the Sept. 13 accord, rather than on set-piece diplomacy, Prince Hassan said.

"You can't continue with media events in Washington or Oslo or Tunis or whatever, as a substitute for change on the ground," he said.

There was no "American pressure" for a meeting between Crown Prince and Mr. Peres, but that Washington "felt that the encounter could help advance the peace process."

Summing up the Crown Prince's visit to Washington as highly positive, a senior official told the Jordan Times in Amman Saturday that Jordan was looking forward to turning a new leaf in its regional and international relations.

The official said: "There is a distinctly marked change in the world attitude towards Jordan, particularly from its traditional friends who now believe that it was not fair to have treated Jordan the way they did in the past three years."

The official, who declined to be named, said that the fast pace in the two-year-old Middle East peace process, the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed on Sept. 13, the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda on Sept. 14 and international solidarity with and support for the quest for Arab-Israeli peace were some of the factors.

"Over and above everything else, the realisation that geopolitics dictate that there cannot be lasting peace in the Middle East without Jordan was a major factor that led to the shift in attitude," said the official.

COLUMN 8

Transparent trash bags raise a stink

TOKYO (AFP) — A ordinance requiring Tokyo residents to use transparent bags has created a stink among those who cootend garbage private affair. The city ordinance was designed to prevent garbage from being hidden among the residents' trash and was seen as a way forcing Tokyo's eight million residents to comply with environmental law requiring them to set aside burn trash in separate bags. However the merits of the ordinance, its implementation and its supporters. The last for many residents appears to have been another part of ordinance that requires residents to fill out name tags their household trash. The proviso provoked violent protests from residents who even took to a Japan form of civil disobedience ignoring the rules. Only a clear trash bags could be along the residential street the nation's capital Friday. normal black ones were of force. Because of the strict protests, officials have Tokyo residents a three-an half-month "grace period" get used to the new ordinance. And officials have also been off from a threat that who do not write their names on the bags won't get trash picked up.

Plane for Paris struck by lightning

ROME (AP) — Light struck an Air France plane after takeoff Friday and to an emergency landing, reports said. None of the passengers was injured, both damaged the front of the plane and the radar. Italian news agency (A) said. The pilot radioed emergency to the control and landed the plane on a runway that had been closed of traffic. The plane was headed for Paris. Most of the passengers took a flight.

Beheaded queen to stand re-trial

PARIS (R) — French the goers get a chance to re-history Friday when a opens in Paris re-staging trial of ill-fated Queen Marie Antoinette during which audience will act as jury. way through "Je M'Appelle Marie-Antoinette," (My Name is Marie-Antoinette), in scenes at Paris' Palais Sports indoor stadium was asked to decide the fate of queen who was beheaded treason on Oct. 16, 1793, audience, whose vote will rate the ending of the each performance, will choice between confirming death sentence or allowing Austrian-born queen's exile, exile or prison. The has revived some of the interest which swept France 1989 during celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the revolution which threw Marie-Antoinette's band, Louis XVI. He was headed in January 1793 a height of a controversial period of the revolution called "terror." More than 10 monarchists attended privately-organised commemorative ceremony at site of his execution, on prestigious Place de la corde, last January. The stage production, by known avant-garde director Robert Hossein, is all fuelling "revisionist" view the life of Marie-Antoinette who during her reign focused discontent against the monarchy.

Soul singer jailed in drunken driving case

HACKENSACK, New J. (AFP) — Soul artist W Pickett was sentenced to year in jail for injuring elderly pedestrian while driving drunk. Superior Court Judge Arthur Minusko sentenced the singer to years probation and order to receive continued, hol treatment and community service. Pickett, known performing Mustang Sally in The Midnight Mr. pleaded guilty to assault automobile in connection the April 1992 incident which an 86-year-old man hospitalised several months with head injuries. He faces charges of driving across a neighbour's lawn May 1991.

مكتبة لادن